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THE BRITISH WEST INDIES IN 1850,
BY JOHN CANDLER AND G. W. ALEXANDER.
(Continued from page 23.)

GRENADA.

Grenada is a small but lovely island, and contains 27,000 inhabitants. Our stay in it was too limited to allow us to make more than a few brief and general remarks on its condition. The sugar estates in active cultivation are reduced to about eighty, and these are not of large extent. The hills, which, under a high price of sugar, once flourished in cane cultivation, are now a comparative wilderness, or used for the growth of provisions. Lands in cane are much confined to the valleys. Only 2,000 labourers are said to be employed on all the plantations. Property has fallen much in value, and large areas of land, with good dwellings on them, out-buildings, and expensive machinery, are selling at very low prices. *Belmont* estate, containing 360 acres of land, and lying near the town of St. George, was lately disposed of for £1,500. *Tuilleries*, adapted to make 100 hogsheads of sugar per annum, has been sold for £1,000; and other good properties in proportion. We cannot satisfactorily account for this state of things except on the ground of panic, and we think that a change for the better must soon take place. We were glad to learn, notwithstanding the prevalent depression, that there are estates, principally under the charge of one mercantile house in London, that are worked with decided advantage to the proprietors. Several properties have been recently taken on lease, at rents varying from £50 to £100 per annum, by resident planters, who were managers for absentees, and we have no doubt that many of them will do well under the new arrangement. Mortgagees in England, who are resolved to foreclose, must either farm the estates themselves, or sell, or let them at low rents to the old or new occupiers. The two latter courses seem to be preferred. A race of cultivators is thus springing up, who possess a moderate capital, who have a deeper interest in the soil than the former attorneys and managers, and who, by their industry, economy, and skill, may, and we hope will, redeem the colony. The abandonment of nearly all the sugar estates unfavourably situated, has deprived of their former employments a large proportion of the predial labourers; but this circumstance has proved less disadvantageous to them than it would otherwise have been, from the cheapness of land, and the facility thereby afforded of becoming small proprietors. Many of these grow provisions on which they chiefly subsist, and they supply the town of St. George with fruit, vegetables, and other articles for the table, at a low price. They also cultivate small patches of cane, which they convert into syrup, or manufacture into sugar, by a rude process. During the short period of our stay in the island, there came in a cargo of liberated Africans. The vessel that brought them was commodious, clean, and well ventilated, and the immigrants were healthy and in good condition; but why they were brought to Grenada it was not very easy to determine, as labour was abundant in the colony, and wages only tenpence a day.

The Lieutenant-governor, in his last Annual Report, says, that "greater economy and attention than heretofore have been bestowed in every rural department, and that the colonists evince a desire of meeting with energy the difficulties of their position." In reference to the labourers, he adds—"The payment of wages has, in many cases, been displaced by the *métayer*, or share system; or the cultivation is in part carried on by labour of the people for certain days, who, in consideration or exchange for such labour, are allowed the occupation of houses and grounds on estates. The plantations, therefore, are not carried on on a fixed principle, and

two adjoining estates may be worked on different systems. Among the expedients adopted by the proprietors in lieu of money wages, it would seem that the share system, which gives a direct interest to the peasantry in the cultivation of the land, would be more likely to succeed; but the length of time between the planting and reaping of the cane, and the unavoidable delay in converting the produce into money, will render that mode of cultivation successful only with the richer and more energetic class of labourers; and should they, on experience, find the cultivation to be unremunerative, that system will fail even with them."

Some, but we fear very inefficient, attention is paid to education in this colony. We attended a large Anti-Slavery Meeting in the Court-house, as we had done previously in Trinidad, and were rejoiced to observe the readiness with which the planters and merchants, assisted by persons in authority, came forward, on both these occasions, to denounce slavery as an unjust, impolitic, and cruel system, and to bear a testimony to the blessings of emancipation.

SAINT VINCENT.

The British steamers that navigate these seas afford considerable facilities for speedy locomotion, and for visiting the beautiful islands that adorn them. In one of these vessels we reached St. Vincent in the early part of 1850, and made a tour of nearly the whole island. It contains 30,000 inhabitants, and is well cultivated. Its principal productions are sugar and arrow root. Nearly all the sugar plantations are owned by absentees, or are under mortgage to consignees in Great Britain, and of course its affairs are less prosperous than would otherwise be the case. There is, however, less reason for complaint here than in some other colonies, and the labourers especially are doing well. The peasantry who work on the sugar estates are estimated at 6,000. Some few are employed by the planters in the cultivation of arrow root, and others cultivate that article on their own account, as well as provisions for the Kingstown market. We traversed the island in company with the Chief Magistrate of Police, and the Collector of Customs, who kindly offered to assist us. On one of the afternoons of our interesting journey, we received an invitation to turn from the high-road to visit and inspect one of the free villages, which are numerous in this island, and some of which are planted in very lovely spots. The people had come out to meet us; a school of about sixty children formed a lane for us to pass through—the boys took off their caps and bowed, and the whole band repeated in chorus, "And thus we do to welcome you." They then sang their favourite hymn, "O that will be joyful." We entered the house of a black man, the manager of a neighbouring estate, and spoke to the people from a landing on the first-floor. They welcomed our coming and going with hearty cheers. The village, called Victoria, has a population of 800 persons. Many of the houses are very good, the alleys or paths between them neat and clean, the gardens fruitful, and, what was to us exceedingly gratifying, no spirit store was suffered to exist in the place. All were teetotallers. The men, women, and children, were well-dressed, and seemed as happy as they are free. Such scenes as these it is delightful to witness. Emancipation is said, by the enemies of human freedom, to have proved a failure. It is not such to the planters, where they have acted judiciously, and many of them proclaim it a blessing; it is not such to those who were slaves, for they are loud in its praise. Ask the emancipated peasantry which they prefer—the old time, or the new? The answer is, "Thank God, massa, for freedom." We overtook an intelligent looking negro on the road, and asked him, among other questions, "What he thought of freedom?" He seemed

surprised at our putting such a question to him, and struggling to give utterance to his emotions, he returned an answer which may be taken as a standard of the common feeling:—"Freedom, massa—freedom—freedom is the track of happiness."

The Wesleyan missionaries obtained a footing in this colony, before a single parish church had been erected, and have continued diligently to labour among the people from that period to the present day. They have established some good schools, which, added to those provided by the clergy of the church of England, and the Presbyterians, afford education to a large number of young people. We were pleased to find in Kingstown two schools for boys, and one for girls, which are far from being of a merely elementary character. The duty of marriage is strictly inculcated, and appears to be better regarded than in most of our other colonies. The calendar of crime was a light one. We found in the gaol, seven British soldiers, confined for drunkenness and insubordination, and only twenty-three other men, tried and untried, and seven women. Several friendly societies have been instituted, and are in activity. They contribute much, it is said, to the social, and even to the moral improvement of the people. The principle of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks finds much favour in the colony, and is encouraged by some of the more wealthy and influential inhabitants. The labourers of St. Vincent are said to be *never idle*. They are exemplary in their attendance on public worship, and so far as we are able to judge, their moral condition is more satisfactory than in any other British colony.

THE PLANTERS.

Amidst all present disadvantages and checks to prosperity, the planters have no ground for despair in this colony, which contains men who are resolved, if possible, to overcome all difficulties, and who will overcome them. Give them a fair stage; do them the justice not to subject them to a competition with slave owners, who exact of their victims sixteen hours of labour out of the twenty-four, and they ask no favour. The cultivation of arrow root is extending, and can be prepared for exportation, at a cost of twopence halfpenny per pound, thus bidding fair to become an important article of commerce. Some planters have introduced the nutmeg tree of the East Indies, which appears to thrive well. Cotton is, as yet, cultivated only to a small extent, but if the experiments now making in many parts of the West Indies to re-introduce it, should prove successful, as we think they will, we may confidently look for its adoption here.

The island of St. Vincent, besides being extremely beautiful, contains intelligent, agreeable society. We spent a happy fortnight there, and look upon our visit to it and to its inhabitants with peculiar pleasure.

SAINT LUCIA.

The second month of the year (February) had begun its course, and in order to pursue our onward progress among the islands, without missing any of the most important of them, or staying always for the arrival and departure of the steamer, twice in the month, we engaged a sloop to convey us to St. Lucia. Our friends provided us with fruit and provisions for the voyage, and saw us safe on board. It is painful to beat up against a head-wind in any latitude, and in any craft, but to be compelled to do this in a small vessel, without an awning to protect from a vertical sun, is distressing. Affected by sea sickness, and weary of our unpropitious voyage, we ordered the captain, instead of proceeding to Castries, the capital, to land us at the small town of Souffriera, in a bay of the same name. This town contains about a thousand inhabitants, and we rested there two nights. Near it is a volcano almost extinct, but which still pours out sulphur, and in the vicinity also are the two Piton mountains, 2,700 feet in height, which rise abruptly from the ocean. These mountains are conspicuous from a great distance at sea. St. Lucia, though a larger island than many of the windward group, is but thinly populated. It has 23,000 inhabitants. The planters are chiefly of French descent, and the common people speak a corrupted dialect, very difficult to be understood by a stranger. There are eighty-one sugar estates in operation; of which number, fourteen are held by a single proprietor. Most of the estates are managed by resident owners, who live economically. The ruinous practice of burdening the properties with heavy mortgages prevails less here than in many other colonies. A register is kept of such mortgages, and the amount scarcely exceeded £80,000 for the whole island. Labour is abundant, and wages are low, but capital to carry on and enlarge cultivation is much needed. One planter said to us, "Sugar

properties worked by water continue to pay at present prices; if worked by steam, they may perhaps be made to pay; if worked by cattle they occasion a loss. Another planter assured us that St. Lucia, as an exporting colony, was in a rising condition, although it had been thrown back for the last two years in consequence of drought. The island is exceedingly mountainous, which accounts in part for its slender cultivation, and its small population. Another reason is, that it abounds with venomous reptiles. A company of young planters from Barbadoes, who had left home to search in other parts of the West Indies for a country to settle in, told us they shunned St. Lucia from this cause alone. Our stay in the island was limited to a few days, and we had no opportunity to visit estates, or to investigate minutely into the condition of the labourers. Marriages are encouraged by the Roman Catholic priests, and amount numerically to nearly the same proportion as in England. Only 900 children receive daily instruction at school, and many of these owe their education to the efforts of the Mico charity, which has here a sort of normal establishment under an active and able superintendent. We were informed that the Roman Catholic clergy discourage education, especially the attendance of girls at the Mico schools, both in the town and country, so that the number of this class under instruction is extremely small. A zealous Protestant lady, in one part of the island, has succeeded in procuring for the schools in her locality a larger proportion than in other localities. The Governor, Captain Darling, is anxious to promote and extend education, but his plans, besides being thwarted by the priests, meet with no great favour among others who have influence. We lament the circumstance that no Protestant missionaries are stationed on this island.

According to the Governor's last published official report, with the exception of, perhaps, some 5,000 or 6,000 persons, residing in the towns, the whole population may be said to cultivate the soil in esculents for their own use, and for sale in the towns and villages. About four-fifths of the population are more or less occupied on the plantations. "The quantity of land returned under careful cultivation, in 1847, was 3,937 acres, yielding 4,693 tons of sugar, or an average of about twenty-four cwt. per acre; and in 1848, 3,992 acres, yielding 2,916 tons of sugar, or an average of fifteen cwt. per acre; an amount which sufficiently demonstrates the fluctuating nature of the returns, and the consequently speculative character of sugar production." With respect to the labouring class, the following testimony of the Governor places them in a favourable point of view:—"The labourers certainly have evinced a very considerable degree of commendable moderation and patience, under the adversity of non-payment and reduction of their daily wages; yet it cannot be denied that, in many instances, the diminution of wages, which in some cases has been even to the extent of one-half former rates, has been received with much dissatisfaction, and consequent interruption or total suspension of estates' work. It may be truly said, however, that were the employers more exact and punctual in making weekly or bimonthly payments of wages, and the week system of payments in kind totally abandoned, there would be infinitely less reluctance on the part of the labourers to accept a reduction of wages, which commercial difficulties have rendered imperative on the part of the planter."

THE FRENCH COLONIES.

To the east of St. Lucia, and in view from its shores, lies the magnificent island of Martinique, to which, though foreigners, we gained ready access by our introduction from the French Government. On arriving at St. Pierre, our ship was boarded by the custom-house officers; who, on learning the object of our visit, politely allowed us to land, and to send our luggage on shore after a very slight inspection. We repaired to the *Hotel des Bains*, where we found handsome accommodation. St. Pierre, the capital of Martinique, although not the seat of government, is a good old town, built after the continental fashion, of high houses and narrow streets, and contains 26,000 inhabitants. It has an abundant supply of good water, which runs down the principal streets in a constantly flowing stream—contributing, at the same time, to its health, beauty, and cleanliness. The environs of the city are very lovely. The British Consul introduced us to the Mayor, who is a young man, a mulatto, and we were told, born a slave. His manners are very gentlemanly, and his mind intelligent. This public officer, and the other members of the municipal council, are elected to office by the suffrage of all the male inhabitants, including those who have been recently emancipated. The council

is composed of citizens of every class and colour, who work well together for the general good.

We were introduced also to the Director of the Customs, and the Inspector-General of the Colony, who showed us polite attentions, and gave us some useful information. All these functionaries spoke favourably of the late change from slavery to freedom. The Mayor expressed his great satisfaction at the good conduct of the people, and his astonishment and delight at the result of emancipation: "C'est magnifique: c'est superbe!" The Director stated his belief, that had it not been for a few men of turbulent character, who took advantage of the revolution, whilst the minds of the people were excited, to spread extravagant notions and inflame extravagant hopes, the great change, though a sudden one, would have been effected without the slightest disturbance. The great body of the late slaves, he said, desired peace and order; they were sound at heart, and behaved well. The first crop of sugar made since the proclamation of freedom was three-fourths as large as before; and although, in 1850, there would be something less than in the previous year, he confidently looked to 1851 as likely to restore agriculture to its former condition. The Inspector-General had nearly concluded his tour of inquiry through the island; and, except in one small district, where strong political excitement prevailed, everything was tranquil. He stated that he found the people industrious—the cane fields in good order—and that the country had before it the prospect of abundance and prosperity. The Governor-general, Admiral Bruat, in our visit to him at Fort Royal, also bore his testimony to the general good order of the community, and expressed his desire, now that freedom had come, that education should be extended to all the children of the late slaves. The condition both of the planters and labourers on the island was injuriously affected by the commercial panic incident to the revolution in the mother country. Hence, as well as perhaps from fears entertained by the planters with regard to the results of freedom, little money was in circulation to pay wages and promote industry.

We have not attempted to narrate the visit we paid to the different plantations in our colonies, as it would have swelled our report to an inconvenient length; but we are induced to depart from this course in regard to Martinique, because freedom there was only a year old, and the subject needs illustration. We visited three sugar plantations in the neighbourhood of St. Pierre. One of these, LAROCHE, borders on the town. On this plantation, the late slaves had consented to remain, and work the estate on the *metairie*, or share system, receiving no wages from their employer, but on the condition of not being charged rent for their houses and grounds, and that they should receive a third share of the whole produce. They had become parties somewhat reluctantly to the agreement,—and the year not having been completed, the results were unknown. The land of this estate is fertile, but its limits are narrow, and it yields only 120 small hogsheads of sugar annually. We asked one of the labourers which he regarded as best, slavery or freedom—the old time or the new? He smiled, and said,—"Slavery is past, let us forget it!" Three years ago, to speak on the evils of slavery would have been a high misdemeanor, and a cause of summary banishment. The shackles are now removed from the lips of freemen, and from the limbs of the slaves. The estate LA MONTAGNE belongs to one of the representatives for Martinique, in the House of Assembly at Paris. It has a good mansion, and a considerable number of houses belonging to it, in which the labourers reside. Some of these persons we visited, and found them living contentedly as free people, and working industriously. This estate made 500 small hogsheads in 1848, but only 400 hogsheads in 1849. A person whom we met with, and who is connected with the property, hoped in 1851 to realise as large a crop as ever. The slaves lately attached to this estate were 280, of whom only 80 were first-class labourers: the remainder were aged or sick people, or children not old enough to perform heavy work. The labour of the plantation is now performed by fifty able-bodied men and women, and their families, who enter the field at six o'clock in the morning, and leave at sunset, taking three hours for food and rest—but not working by night, in crop time, as formerly. The wages of adult labour are a franc, or ten pence sterling, a day. Labour is abundant in this quarter. On the Pelerine estate is the largest mansion we had as yet seen in the West Indies. It once belonged to a religious establishment. The boiling house and the other buildings were good and handsome; and some of the labourers' houses quite respectable in appearance. This property, like its neighbour, "La Montagne," is worked on

the system of wages, which is generally much preferred by the peasantry; but the owner complained that he had fewer people to labour for him than he wished—that he could procure no night-work, and that it cost him more to cultivate the estate now than it used to do, with a diminished produce in return. Some of the labourers on these estates left them at the coming in of freedom, and went elsewhere; and although others, from distant places, had come in to fill up the vacuum in part, the numerical strength of all the estates had lessened. Some of the emancipated people have emigrated to other islands—but we believe the number of these is few—and some former slaves, who were fugitives to the British colonies, have returned back, since the declaration of freedom, to live again with their relations and former associates. It is natural to suppose that among the numerous labourers formerly located on sugar estates, a considerable number have partly, or wholly, devoted themselves to other employments,—and this circumstance will satisfactorily account for a temporary decrease of exports.

We think the address of the English residents in Martinique to the Governor-General, on the introduction of freedom into that colony, so creditable to our fellow-countrymen, that we here insert it.

St. Pierre, Martinique, June 7, 1848.

To Monsieur Perrinon, Commissary-general of the Republic, Governor of Martinique.

MONSIEUR LE GOUVERNEUR,—The undersigned, subjects of her Britannic Majesty, proprietors, merchants, and residents at Martinique, beg to pay you their respects, and to congratulate you upon your arrival in this beautiful and interesting colony, the government of which has been entrusted to your wisdom and patriotism.

Children of a country which for many years has earnestly sought the abolition of slavery throughout the universe, and which considered no sacrifice too great in order to eradicate it from the whole of her vast possessions, we could not, without the liveliest pleasure, behold regenerated France enter upon this noble course, so worthy of a great and powerful nation.

In common with all right-minded persons, we deplore the unfortunate occurrences which have deprived you of the ineffable happiness which was destined for you—that of causing the last chains of slavery to fall at your voice in this colony, of which you are a worthy son. But your name will, notwithstanding, be forever connected with this great work of justice; and the part which you have taken in it will be considered by posterity as the noblest jewel of your civic crown.

We sincerely desire, Monsieur le Gouverneur, that you may long enjoy the sweet satisfaction which your heart must experience at beholding none but freemen and citizens in your native country. And we take pleasure in believing that the newly liberated negroes, on taking their place in the great French family, will rightly appreciate the immense benefit conferred upon them, and will prove that they are worthy of it.

May our two great nations, so worthy of mutual esteem, no longer contend in anything but the cultivation of the arts of peace, and in the efforts which they shall make to break the last fetters of slavery in those countries in which it still exists. And may this beautiful and noble colony, so justly named the Queen of the Antilles, become more rich, more happy, and more fertile than ever, by the labour of energetic men, free henceforward from every shackle.

We trust, Monsieur le Gouverneur, that you will continue to us that kind protection which we have enjoyed under your predecessors. We shall ever prove ourselves worthy of it by our submission to the laws, and by a course of conduct void of reproach.

We are, with respect,

Monsieur le Gouverneur,

Your very humble and obedient servants,

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| (Signed) JOHN J. LAWLESS. | JAMES LANGFORD. |
| JAMES MAXWELL. | WILLIAM LAWLESS. |
| RICHARD O'SHAUGNESSY. | GEORGE HINDLEY. |
| LEWIS PAULIN. | JOHN DAVID. |
| ALEXANDER CAMPBELL. | HENRY DAVID. |
| ROBERT BEGG. | CHARLES LABADIE. |
| RICHARD MIDDLETON. | E. MIDDLETON. |

This address was written by Mr. J. Lawless, and read by him, at the head of the other subscribers, to the Governor, who replied in nearly the following terms:—

"Citizens! The English nation was the first to give to the world the noble example of the emancipation of her slaves. France, who is never willing to remain behindhand when great works of justice and humanity are concerned, was moved by her conduct, and darted forward towards the same object, which our noble Republic has had the glory and the happiness to reach. I am flattered by the step which you have taken with regard to me, and I am pleased to find myself surrounded by men who are animated by such noble sentiments, and moved by the same desires as ourselves for the peace and tranquillity of the world, and for the complete regeneration of all her inhabitants, without exception. Let us have no more wars, citizens—for war is the scourge of civilisation. Let us have no more struggles, except to obtain the abolition of the monstrous system of slavery, wherever it still exists. I accept your desires for the prosperity of the colony, and I am convinced that many happy and prosperous days are in store for it. I thank you, citizens, for your conduct. I am pleased to see you in this country, and you may rely upon my entire protection."

During our stay in Martinique we were much indebted to the writer of the address, lately appointed British Consul in that island, for his kind and very useful services.

GUADALOUPE.

Our visit to Guadeloupe was too brief to admit of much investigation, but from inquiries made at Basse-terre we found that the colony was not in so settled and satisfactory a state as that of Martinique: the storm of politics was raging, field work was too much neglected, and commerce was greatly depressed. In one point of view—and that a very important one—the two French colonies are very much alike. A good system of secular education prevails in the large towns of both, to which the poor of all classes, and of every colour, resort. Boys and girls are educated apart; the former under the government of *Les Frères Chrétiens*, the latter under that of *Les Sœurs de St. Joseph*. White, brown, and black children sit together on the same forms, without distinction, and have the benefit of able teachers. The instructions given in these large schools is more than elementary, especially that afforded to the boys, which embraces geography, history, and mathematics; and the pupils are taught to delineate maps, and to make architectural drawings. We visited some of these schools, at St. Pierre and Fort Royal, in Martinique, and at Basse-terre, in Guadeloupe, and were favourably impressed with their good order and efficiency. Who can doubt that freedom, accompanied, as it begins to be, with a liberal education, embracing the humble classes of society, will be attended with benefit to the colonies of France, and eventually to France itself?

DOMINICA.

From St. Pierre, in less than fourteen hours, we were borne gaily over the waves by our little barque to Roseau, the capital of Dominica, an island which once belonged to France, and was settled by Frenchmen—but is now, and for a long time past has been under the dominion of Great Britain. In coasting the shores of Dominica, as of other of our West Indian islands, we were greatly pleased with the beautiful face of nature. This magnificent island is very mountainous, and abounds in forest. The inhabitants, in number 22,000, are chiefly Roman Catholics; but the church of England has its little establishment, and a few converts. The Wesleyan missionaries have here a useful field of labour. There are but few schools in the island, and but little elementary instruction is imparted to the young, except at Roseau, where the Roman Catholic schools are pretty well attended, and where there is also a small school for boys, and one for girls, belonging to the church of England. The Government has, for several years past, granted £300 annually for education, which is divided among the schools of the island, in the ratio of their respective number of scholars.

Free villages are less numerous here than elsewhere. The proprietors of estates, acting, as we conceive, on a mistaken policy as it regards their own interest, are unwilling to sell small portions of land to the labourers; and the Crown, which possesses a large territorial domain, refuses to dispose of less to any one purchaser than forty acres. In the town of Roseau, which contains 5,000 inhabitants, there are a few coloured freeholders, who own houses with small allotments of land, and others of the same class, who own the houses they occupy, and hire land at a distance; but the great body of the peasantry live in the cabins belonging to the plantations, for which, and their provision grounds, they pay rent.

The labouring population is quite equal to the wants of the colony, and is, in some places, superabundant. Wages are as low as sixpence or eightpence a day. Provisions are cheap, and there is no destitution. In the north-east of the island, where the principal sugar estates are situated, the common people are said to make a good living, and to lay by money. The social condition of the colony is more satisfactory than that of St. Lucia, although the two islands contain the same number of inhabitants, and profess, for the most part, the same faith. We attribute this difference to the fact that Dominica possesses several Protestant missionaries, whose labours provoke a wholesome emulation, and who thus, as well as by their more direct influence, contribute to the intellectual and moral elevation, and to the religious welfare of the colony. A change of property is beginning to take place here, which probably may soon be more extensive. Several estates, recently owned by absentees, have passed into the hands of resident cultivators. One individual, largely engaged as an attorney, has lately purchased wholly, or in part, on his own account, eleven sugar estates; and from these, and other properties confided to his care, he ships annually the large amount of 2,500 hogsheads. We have good reason to believe that most of the estates, which make a pretty considerable quantity of sugar, that is, from 150 to 200 hogsheads and upwards, yield a good profit. Purchasers of land at the present very low prices, who possess sufficient capital to work them, can, we think, hardly fail of success. It is a little remarkable, that no sugar estate has recently gone out of cultivation; and some fresh land has lately been brought into use for canes. A few properties, owing to a want of means on the part of their owners or managers, are cultivated on the share system; but this plan of operation is not in favour with any class, and is only submitted to where the means of carrying on cultivation in the ordinary mode do not exist. This system, so common in Hayti, where the whole community is poor, and no white man is allowed to possess an inch of its soil, is ill adapted to the state of our colonies. It is deficient in the essential elements of success. A partnership in labour, where all are to be equal sharers of the profit, leaves too much liberty to each individual. Every man, to a certain extent, is his own master, and refuses to obey another. One thinks he does too much, and blames others for doing too little, and hence dissatisfaction and discord. The political economist, looking at the quantity of produce likely to be raised from the ground under the two systems of working on shares, waiting long for the profits, and working for wages paid weekly, would, we think, with very little hesitation, pronounce for the latter, as the best for all parties. The share system can be carried out better on coffee plantations than on those for sugar, because of the greater concentration of labour, at particular seasons, in one kind of occupation; and an equal quantity of work to be done may be allotted with less difficulty to each labourer. In Dominica, few such plantations now remain. Coffee was once the staple produce of the island, and the source of its wealth and prosperity, but an extensive blight has nearly destroyed all the trees. Added to this, the competition of Ceylon, as a coffee growing country, has so effectually brought down the price of that commodity, as to leave no margin for profit on its cultivation here. This branch of industry is therefore paralysed, and coffee, as an article of commerce, has nearly disappeared from the exports. Cotton of a fine quality was also once grown here, and will, we hope, be cultivated again.

The legislature of Dominica is composed principally of coloured men born in the island, who know its wants and resources, and who transact its affairs with some regard to economy, and the welfare of all classes. We are bound, however, to notice one very injurious law, lately passed, which tends to irritate the small freeholders, who cultivate their hired provision grounds, and to depress honest industry. A heavy duty has been laid on the exportation of yams, plantains, and other articles of *bread kind*. This law, in the opinion of some of the most enlightened men of the colony, ought to be immediately repealed, and we heartily concur in the sentiment.

ANTIGUA.

Still pursuing our course by the *Nautilus*, we arrived in the harbour of St. John's, the capital of Antigua, on the morning of the first day of the week—the Christian Sabbath, and rejoiced to observe the stillness of the town. Here was a place of 9,000 inhabitants, and scarcely a single person to be seen in the streets. The tower of the new and great cathedral glittered in the noon-day sun, the spacious edifice of the Wesleyans rose prominently before

us, and the Presbyterian kirk in the distance. The bishop of the diocese was preaching at the cathedral, and to this, and the other places of worship, including the large Moravian chapel, the people, as by common consent and custom, had repaired. It was a gratifying sight, when the services were over, to see people of every colour, black, white, and brown, handsomely attired, all slowly returning to their respective homes. We had to wait an hour at our hotel, and we waited contentedly, till its mistress and her servants returned to furnish us with a morning's repast. How different all this to the state of things a few years since, when slavery was sanctioned by law! The weekly public market was long held on the day sacred to rest and Divine worship. The noise of a busy throng of traders then prevailed, where now all was order and peace. It is not too much to say of the descendants of Africa, in our colonies, that since emancipation, and the abolition of "Sunday" markets, they have become pre-eminently a church-going people. Whatever their moral defects may be, and much allowance in charity is due to them, they seem glad to frequent their places of public worship. We expected, morally speaking, more of Antigua than of the other colonies, and found a greater advance in this respect than in most of them. Its legislature, trusting to the policy of doing right, had the courage to give immediate and unconditional liberty to the slaves, without the mis-called preparation of apprenticeship; nor has it ever had occasion to regret the measure. The people, at once emancipated from bondage, have proved themselves good subjects, and they continue to exhibit the pleasing spectacle of an improved, and improving community. Not wishing to remain in the cabins where they once lived as slaves, they soon bought land, and built houses of their own. The free villages are numerous, and scattered over hill and dale, or lying by the sea-side, animate the face of nature, and improve its scenery. One of these villages, consisting of a fair class of houses with gardens attached, and close to the bay, forms a handsome suburb to the capital. Too many of the dwellings of the peasantry, however, both in town and country, have only one room, and although this is sometimes large, such an arrangement is obviously very undesirable, on the ground of comfort and morals, and will, we hope, soon be remedied.

It was with much regret that we learned, shortly after our arrival, that the circumstances of the colony were such as considerably to abridge the physical comfort of a portion of its inhabitants. Such was the case with its industrious peasantry at the time of our visit. All classes were, indeed, more or less in a state of depression. The awful earthquake of 1843 overthrew many houses and sugar works, and occasioned a great loss of property. Then came the Sugar Act of 1846, which greatly depreciated the price of the staple article. These disasters were followed, in 1848, by a hurricane, which swept away much property that the earthquake had spared; and both that year and the succeeding one were seasons of prolonged drought. The gardens and provision grounds of the labourers had yielded only a scanty return, the sugar crops were very deficient, and the planters, discouraged at almost every step, and deprived, to a great extent, of monied assistance from England, were unable to give the same quantity of employment to the people, or to pay for it as formerly. The wages of labour were reduced to sixpence only a day. We did not discover any actual destitution, or deep distress among the peasantry, but we found, in some places, much of real poverty, which they seemed to encounter with exemplary patience. Not a few of them, animated, we trust, by religious feeling, bore up cheerfully in the hope of better times. The schools suffered in the general depression, and were maintained with great difficulty. Parents pleaded poverty as a reason for not sending their children to them, or for not paying the weekly sum demanded, and the fees, always small in amount, were in numerous instances remitted.

The population of Antigua is, of males, 16,722, and of females, 19,456; total, 36,178. There are taught in the day schools 2,944 children, mostly under twelve years of age; and in the day and Sabbath schools together, at least 6,000. The Moravians take the precedence, as they always have done, in the work of education; and next to them, in this respect, is the Church of England. The Wesleyans have large Sabbath schools, but not many day schools. The Mico charity has a good normal establishment, and the Moravians a very interesting normal school of industry in the country, where the pupils, all of whom are very young, pay in part for their board and instruction by the work they perform in the gardens and fields. There is also in the city of St. John an orphan school for coloured girls, under the care of two pious Wesleyan women,

which deserves all the support a Christian public may be willing to bestow. We were very much gratified by visits paid to many of these schools. It was delightful and cheering to look on the rows of shooless children, with their little black faces beaming with intelligence, animation, and youthful happiness. The Sabbath schools also afforded us a great treat. In one of them, belonging to the Moravians, we found 500 children and adults, under the care and tuition of 53 teachers; and in another, at the Wesleyan chapel, about 250 young persons, all of whom were instructed in the elements of religion, and of their duties to God and man. Such efforts as these for the good of the rising generation, ought to excite our gratitude. They have had, and still have, a most beneficial influence on the community at large.

The calendar of crime in Antigua is far from large, and is chiefly made up, as in most of our colonies, of petty offences. The average number of prisoners, tried and untried, in the colonial gaol, and for all sorts of offences, is under eighty, which speaks well for the population. We lament to observe, in this island, a practice which is common with the planters, of allowing rations of rum to their labourers as an incentive to labour, or as, what they would denominate, a reward for its performance. Such a practice naturally induces a love of ardent spirits, and, if wages were high enough to allow the gratification, would doubtless lead many to the grog shop, and thus increase the temptation to vice. Intemperance is not a prevailing sin among the emancipated people of Antigua, or, indeed, of any other of our West India colonies; but such practices, if persevered in, will probably superinduce that deplorable vice. In our journeys through the island, we had occasional opportunities of addressing the labourers on temperance, and other moral duties. At a large meeting one evening, in the Episcopal chapel of a small village, the people, among other things, were recommended not to spend any of their earnings improperly, but to lay by for a rainy day. A negro man, with a jet black face, very archly said, "Yes, Sir, very true, but we no get enough in a dry day to put by for a rainy one." This, poor creatures, was, at that moment, truly the case. The assembly were asked if they had anything they wished to say to those in England who, like themselves, were labourers; when another replied, "Tell them no buy slave sugar, that mixed with blood; but buy Antigua; no blood in that now, massa." The officiating clergyman, who was present, told us that owing to the poverty of the people he had been obliged to close his infant school of 200 children. The parents could not afford to pay for their schooling, although he only required of them a penny a-week for each child in attendance.

The contract law, acted upon, as it sometimes is, by indiscreet managers in an unrelenting spirit, occasions hardships to the peasantry, and often leads to their imprisonment, as misdemeanants, with hard labour. This we ascertained by an examination of the prison records. There was, moreover, no court of appeal in the colony at the time of our visit, although a bill to establish one had passed the council.

THE PLANTERS.

In Antigua, as elsewhere, a great diversity exists in the present condition of the planters. Some estates have been lately sold, or are selling, at a very low price; but the greater part of the properties remain in the hands of absentee owners, or mortgagees, some of which are still paying well, whilst others are cultivated at a loss. One gentleman, an agent or attorney for thirty-four sugar plantations, had been recently looking over his books of account. Fourteen of these estates, he said, afforded a revenue to the proprietors; twelve were unattended with loss or profit; and eight were carried on to a loss. We heard of forty other estates, which are under the care of a mercantile house in Great Britain, and which are superintended by one of the firm, who resides in the colony. Many of these properties, we are confident, are doing well, and if others of them fail to do so, it is no more than might, under present circumstances, be reasonably expected. The estates that do not pay will, we believe, be found to be generally those not favourably situated, or where the soil is indifferent. It should also be remembered, that almost all estates belonging to absentees are subject to disadvantages, from which estates, managed by resident proprietors, are exempt. The charge of an attorney is considerable, amounting in many instances to twenty shillings for every hogshead of sugar shipped; and if the estate happen to be mortgaged, which is almost always the case, the disadvantage to the nominal owner is still more considerable. The difference between burdened and unburdened properties was represented to us as amounting to another twenty shillings a ton,

Small estates, not well situated, or not very fertile, might have borne these deductions formerly, but they cannot bear them now. These must either pass into the hands of resident owners, or be thrown out of cultivation. Hitherto, but few estates have been abandoned, and six or eight, which had been thrown up under slavery, have been brought again into cultivation. The growth of sugar has somewhat increased; which leads us to suppose that the planters look upon the present depression as only temporary. One thing, however, is perfectly clear, that nothing but improved husbandry and strict economy, with sufficient capital to give employment to labour, will make the country prosperous; and these cannot secure prosperity when the heaven withholds its rain, as is not unfrequently the case in this, and the neighbouring island of St. Kitt's. Little besides sugar is grown in Antigua. Many of the hills are barren and yield nothing, but the plains, in some parts, are so rich and fertile as, in good seasons, to yield three tons of sugar per acre. The cocoa nut trees are nearly all blighted and dead, and few other trees remain. Provisions are grown in the colony in a sufficient quantity only to supply one-third of the food consumed by the population. The remaining two-thirds are imported, chiefly from the United States. The following comparative value of exports in different years is estimated at the Custom-house by the current price of produce in the home market, and tends to show the very large falling off in the sum received by the planters and labourers, arising out of our late legislation. In 1847, sugar was valued at £20 per hogshead; in 1848, at only £12 per hogshead.

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|---------|----------|
| 1845 | Nett exports to Great Britain | | £267,237 |
| 1846 | " | " | 213,967 |
| 1847 | " | " | 217,998 |
| 1848 | " | " | 164,831 |

A few years ago, when times were more prosperous, the building of a cathedral was commenced, and which has been completed at the enormous cost of £40,000. Other church edifices in country parishes, on a scale of magnificence and expense, equally unreasonable and disproportioned to the means of the colony, stand unfinished. The means of the inhabitants are crippled by this extravagance; and the Dissenters, who form the great bulk of the community, justly complain of the burdens imposed upon them for these purposes by the dominant party. Several coloured gentlemen are members of the legislature, elected principally through the influence of their own class in society, but nearly all the magistrates are white men. In the city of St. John, there are only two men of colour in the commission of the peace, although there are several merchants of that class well qualified for the office. It was spoken of to us as a great hardship, that while now and then, though rarely, a coloured man is appointed to some honorary office, in no instance has any place of emolument, combined with the honorary, been conferred on one of that body. We think this subject worthy of the consideration both of colonial governors and of the Government at home, as it regards Antigua and most of our other India colonies.

Before leaving this very interesting island, in which we had met with great kindness and attention from the Governor-general and all classes of the community, and had experienced much hospitality, we had the gratification of attending a large Anti-slavery Meeting at the Court House. The bishop of the diocese presided, and spoke on the subject of the slave-trade and slavery, as a Christian minister ought to speak. Clergymen, missionaries, merchants, and planters took part in the proceedings, and several resolutions were passed expressive of the evils of slavery, and of congratulation that a system so cruel, debasing, and impolitic had ceased in the British dominions.

ST. KITT'S.

Embarking on board our hired schooner, *The Wave*, we left Antigua at 10 a.m., and, borne onward by a fine breeze, reached St. Kitt's, and cast anchor at Basse-terre, its principal town, before sunset. Early the next morning we waited on Governor Macintosh, who kindly offered the use of his carriage and horses during our stay. In the evening his coachman took us a drive through the rich valley in which Basse-terre stands; the cane plant looked sickly, owing to a long drought, and the hired grounds of the labourers yielded a scanty supply of provisions from the same cause. Allotments of land, of small extent, similar to those in some parts of England, are let out in this valley by one of the planters, and, being near the town, which affords a ready market for the produce, are taken up at what amounts to an enormous rental. The labourer receives half the produce, and the owner half! The large amount of labour at command in this colony, the lowness of wages, which

are only sixpence a day, and the unwillingness of the planters to sell small portions of ground, have brought the labourers, in general, to the lowest point of subsistence consistent with comfort, and sometimes below this state. They are anxious to buy waste land, and where they cannot buy, to hire it; and on land so procured, whether bought or hired, they choose to place their dwellings. The planter avails himself of this anxiety on the part of the peasantry, to have homes of their own, to obtain a large ground-rent, and to extort cheap and continuous labour. A spot of 100 feet square usually lets for fifty shillings per annum, unless the party binds himself to work on the estate five days in the week, in which case the rent is reduced to half that sum. Labourers so circumstanced, if they wish for a larger plot of ground to cultivate, are compelled to go to the hill sides and ravines, often many miles off, and, even in that case, must pay very dear for the privilege. The tenure of land so obtained is precarious, as the owners can eject at pleasure. This state of the law is peculiarly grievous to the poor occupier, and almost binds him as a serf to the soil. Added to this grievance, is the operation of the *Cupias* Act. A poor man may, at any time, be summoned before the Court of Requests for a small amount of rent in arrear, and in default of payment be committed to prison as a debtor. Several vexatious law-suits of this kind had lately been prosecuted against the labourers, and parties who had been thus harassed were in prison at the time of our visit. There is an undoubted want of labour on some of the estates, during part of the season of crop, but this want is only partially felt, and is much exaggerated; whilst, out of crop, employment is often refused to numbers who desire to obtain it. We were assured again and again by the labourers, that it is quite common for perhaps a dozen peasants to go early on the "Monday" morning to an estate to seek work for the week, and for five or six of them to be turned back with nothing to do. The planters are very wisely economising labour by the introduction and use of agricultural implements, but their doing so gives great offence to the common people, who are mostly very ignorant, and who attribute to this cause the present low rate of wages. Four of the labourers waited on us, to represent the hardships they sustained in being compelled to compete with ploughs and harrows, which they said was a wrong both to them and their masters; they themselves had only half employment, and the fields, from being simply scratched over, were only half cultivated! We should be glad if they had nothing worse to complain of; but whilst they are comparatively poor, the Home Government is busy in carrying out a project which tends to make them still poorer. Immigrants from Africa are brought here. A cargo of these poor beings had arrived from St. Helena just before we landed, some of whom we saw. They were not wanted in the colony; the effect of their coming is to deepen the depression of the Creoles, already too great, and to retard their civilisation and moral improvement, without which nothing can permanently prosper. The affairs of immigration seem to be arranged between the consignees of estates in England and the Colonial Office at home, as the Governor informed us that he had no intimation of their coming till the ship had cast anchor in the harbour.

The moral state of the labourers is, we fear, but little better than their physical and social condition. The paucity of marriages in the past year, only ninety-two out of a population of 23,000, tells a very unsatisfactory tale. Education also greatly suffers, owing to the insufficient wages of labour. The general funds of the Wesleyan connexion have fallen off at the rate of £480 per annum; the schools, which were partly supported out of them, have become deprived, in some instances, of suitable teachers, and the children in attendance are fewer by 797! The funds of the Moravian Society also have fallen off one-half. All this is much to be deplored, and the more so, because the population, legitimate and illegitimate, is fast increasing, and unless some very vigorous measures be taken to extend elementary education, a large proportion of the young people of the colony will go uninstructed. The baptisms, or births, recorded for the past year were 933; and the burials 649. The friendly societies are languishing, and the savings' bank is empty. The legislature, wisely, we think, have declined making grants for education out of the island chest, which makes it the more imperative for the friends of voluntary education to use exertions in its behalf. The following are the terms of an Act lately passed, bearing date 10th March, 1849:—

"Whereas the embarrassed state of the treasury consequent upon the recent and continuing defalcation of the trade of this island has made it expedient to withdraw the grant for the purpose of encouraging the diffusion of education and of moral training among

the industrial classes of the inhabitants of this island :—We, therefore, your Majesty's loyal subjects, the officer administering the government of this island and of Anguilla, and the council and assembly of the said island of Saint Christopher, do pray your most excellent Majesty that it may be enacted :—

"I. And be it and it is hereby enacted, that, from and after the passing of this act, the act passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, number six hundred and fifty-nine, intituled an Act to Promote the Education of the Industrial Classes in this Island, and every clause, matter, and thing therein contained, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed, annulled, and made void."

THE PLANTERS.

Here, as well as in Antigua, the planters seem very willing to encourage ecclesiastical encroachments at the expense of the community at large. The sum of £7,000 has been expended on an Episcopalian place of worship at Basse-terre, which is left unfinished. The scheme of completing it appears to be abandoned, as it is now discovered that the old church is large and good enough. How striking the contrast between this wasteful and extravagant grant for a church a few years since, and the terms of the Act which we have cited in reference to education !

The sugar estates yield but a very moderate return, and the value of landed property is much reduced. A planter residing in Antigua purchased an estate at Old Road, in this island, since emancipation, and before the passing of our late Sugar Act, for which he gave £7,000; he could then have readily let it at £300 or £400 per annum on lease. It makes 100 hogsheads of sugar. He is now content to receive for it £150 per annum. Another estate lying near it, altogether a most desirable and well-regulated property, which makes 110 hogsheads, lets for the same sum. Between these two properties is a forsaken estate, by which we drove. It has a moderately good dwelling-house, sugar works with a steam engine, and 120 acres of middling cane field. It is offered for sale at £600, but would let readily for £40 per annum. We heard, however, of land that has been recently purchased by a resident proprietor, adjoining his estate, at the rate of £20 per acre. The few resident planters on the island, we were assured, are generally doing well. A few of the planters, late agents for absentees, are buying up good properties as fast as their means allow, and we were assured by some of these gentlemen, that a majority of the sugar estates would yield a fair profit, if bought or hired at the present market value of land, and especially if protected against slave-grown sugar by a differential duty of five shillings per cwt. The cost at which sugar may be produced here is much the same as in Barbadoes: it is grown on an estate near Basse-terre at 6s. 6d. per cwt., exclusive of repairs, stock, implements, and interest of capital, and may be brought to market, ready for shipment, including all charges of every kind, at about three dollars, or 12s. 6d. per cwt. One planter estimated the cost at 14s. per cwt. The best estates in the island belong to absentees. Nearly all the absentee properties are mortgaged, and remain from that cause subject to heavy charges. The freight of sugar to England, obtained by the competition of ship owners in the open market, is from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per cwt. The freight charged by consignees to whom the properties are mortgaged was represented to us as in general 4s. per cwt.

Some of the planters, and we believe most of the merchants of the colony, are of the coloured class, and many of them members of the legislature. Thirteen of their number did us the favour of making us a call, to represent to us the grievance to which they feel themselves subjected, of being excluded from nearly all the offices of honour and emolument at the disposal of the executive government. Within about twelve months nine persons had been appointed to the magistracy, and not a coloured individual among them. The coroner, who has a salary of £250 per annum, is the only coloured person who holds an office of profit. We thought there was much reason in the complaints of these respectable and highly intelligent men, but candour compels us to acknowledge that they seemed less keenly alive to the wrongs of others than to their own disadvantages, inasmuch as they possess influence in the legislature, and do not exert it, as they might do, to prevent the passing of objectionable laws. Whilst the labourer is subject to imprisonment under the *capias* act as a debtor for a small amount of rent, the larger occupier, by a clause in a bill then before the House, was intended to be relieved from its operation. Imprisonment on mesne-process might ensue for an unpaid rent of five shillings, but in no case whatever where the rent withheld should exceed fifty pounds !

Before leaving St. Kitt's we attended a large anti-slavery meeting at the Court-house, composed of planters, clergymen, labourers, and persons of every class. The Speaker of the House of Assembly presided, and resolutions condemnatory of slavery, and of congratulation on its extinction, were passed unanimously. A severe castigation was bestowed on the eccentric Thomas Carlisle, the author of *Latter-day Pamphlets*, by an Episcopalian clergyman present, and by a Wesleyan missionary, both of whom exposed, in a happy strain of humour and irony, his monstrous perversions of truth and justice, in regard to our emancipated people, and his utter ignorance of colonial matters, on which he writes so confidently. It seemed wonderful to some persons, who attended the meeting, that a day like this should have dawned on the West Indies, in which slavery should be publicly reprobated as a crime. But a great change has taken place in public sentiment, and all classes agree in considering emancipation as a blessing.

MONTSERRAT AND NEVIS.

We were unable to visit MONTSERRAT, owing to the prevalence of small-pox there, and to the consequent quarantine regulations of other islands; neither did we visit NEVIS. Montserrat was represented to us as containing a poor population, and the price of land as very low. With respect to this colony, we gather from the last official Report that the proprietors of estates, with very few exceptions, "have neither capital to carry on cultivation, nor credit sufficient to obtain advances from home for that purpose." Though the ordinary rate of wages is said not to be more than threepence per day, yet long arrears are due to the peasantry. In commenting upon these facts, the Governor sees no other remedy to cure the evil, than "an extensive transfer of property to more solvent hands than those of its present owners."

In Nevis, a majority of the field labourers were working on the share system, as the planters, cut off from their usual supplies from England, had no capital for the payment of wages, and the credit of the island was at a low ebb. The President of this island makes the following report:—"The depression which has affected the state of trade, and the very perceptible though gradual deterioration, both in quality and extent, which has for some time characterised agricultural operations, have both increased during the past year; and the produce of the soil, which is now in course of being submitted to manufacture, will fail, I fear, to satisfy the expectations of the planter, from the absence chiefly of the means of providing for the necessary cultivation of estates during that period of the year when the cane requires such aid to bring it to maturity in a healthy and profitable state. The ordinary price of labour continues to be low; so low, indeed, as to furnish no more than a reasonable recompence for the exercise of labour. The conduct of the labouring population is orderly and peaceable; they are, as a class, in the enjoyment of comparative prosperity; for although they can only in a very few instances avail themselves of regular employment, and at low wages, they are permitted to possess so many irregular privileges and resources that they are comparatively far removed from any danger of destitution. The small extent of grave offences committed in this island continues to evince this state of things."

THE DANISH COLONIES.

Our passage from Basse-terre, in St. Kitt's, to Christianstadt, in Santa Cruz, occupied thirty hours. Santa Cruz is one of the most interesting islands of the western world. The estates are divided from each other by rows of cocoa nut trees; the valleys are well cultivated, and covered with luxuriant cane fields; the roads are excellent, and the landscape everywhere sweet and lovely. It exceeds in quiet beauty almost every spot that we could name. It is not yet fully the abode of liberty, but we trust that it soon will be, and that the people, emancipated from every remnant of bondage, will rejoice as free men on the soil that gave them birth. Santa Cruz is a colony of Denmark, and together with the islands of St. Thomas and St. John, is under the rule of Governor-general Stansen, who gave us a hearty and hospitable welcome, invited us to his table, and gave us liberty, under his own hand, to visit and inspect the public institutions. The records of these islands are kept with scrupulous exactness, and their statistics are exceedingly minute. The free people of Santa Cruz are 7,359. The late slaves, and still unfree, are 16,706; total, 24,065. There reside in the town of Christianstadt, which is the seat of government, 5,108 persons; in Frederickstadt, 2,344; in the country and on the estates, 16,613. The proclamation of freedom to the slave population is dated 3rd July, 1848, and recites as follows :—

"1. All unfree in the Danish West India Islands are from to-day emancipated.

"2. The estate negroes retain for three months from date the use of the houses and provision grounds, of which they have hitherto been possessed.

"3. Labour is in future to be paid for by agreement, but allowance is to cease.

"4. The maintenance of old and infirm, who are not able to work, is until further determination to be furnished by the late owners."

The terms of this proclamation, so plain and unequivocal, which bestow unconditional freedom on the slave, have since been repealed, and resolutions or decrees of a stringent character substituted, which leave the predial labourers in a state of bondage. They cannot change their masters or place of abode oftener than once in the year, and their employments not at all; the wages they receive are very small, and regulated by law. Their daily tasks are prescribed, and they are restricted in locomotion. A chief part of the freedom that remains is the permission, once in the year, when the annual contracts of service expire, to give notice to leave their masters; but in this case they must find employment elsewhere, or buy a passport to leave the land of their birth, and quit the island. This state of things, being only hope deferred, not realised, makes sick the heart of those who are subject to it, and many discontents are the consequence, which manifest themselves in the prison records for what is termed insubordination; and we are sorry to say, in occasional acts of incendiarism, the authors of which are unknown. We attended several of the courts, or what we should term the petty sessions, and paid more than one visit to the principal public prison. This prison is among the best constructed in the West Indies, and contained, at the time of our visit, forty convicts—twenty-seven men and thirteen women. There are fifty-two spacious cells, in one long airy corridor. The prisoners, men and women, were at work in the town, under a guard, each of them wearing a thick and heavy iron ring on the neck (a badge of slavery, that ought not to be tolerated). The commitment book was kept in Danish, and contained such records of offences and punishments as the following:—"For leaving the estate, fourteen days' imprisonment and labour." "Disorderly conduct on the estate, twelve lashes and two months' imprisonment." "Impertinence to the owner, two months' imprisonment." "Frequent desertion of service,"—a female,— "four months' imprisonment." "Stealing canes, three months' imprisonment." There were also many commitments for refusing to work, with the record, "Detained till further orders." No owner of an estate can inflict corporal punishment on the labourers. The police magistrates hold courts in different parts of the island, and in Christianstadt these take place three times a week. In all cases connected with field labour, the sentence is summary, and the convict is sent to prison. There is a court of appeal, but the labourers seldom resort to it. The chief magistrate of police spoke well of the peasantry, and expressed his belief that the present intermediate system would soon give way to unconditional freedom, as at first proclaimed. A similar statement was made by a colonel of artillery, who sat near us, when we dined at the Governor's table. We heartily wish this righteous and beneficial result. Having been introduced by the Governor to a few of the principal planters, we received invitations to make a tour of the island, and to visit some of the estates, which we were glad to accept, as without such permission we could not have ventured into a single cabin. Many of the houses of the *unfree* are much better in appearance than those of the old slave villages in our own colonies. They are generally built of stone, shingled over with wood, and being arranged in rows, have an appearance of respectability and comfort. The arrangements within, of some of the best of them, are pretty good. The people who inhabit these dwellings have a downcast and timid look, very different from that of the labourers of our own colonies. Their masters, with very few exceptions, were evidently unwilling that we should enter into any conversation with them on their circumstances, which we could have done freely if left to ourselves; as the Negro Dutch dialect, once common to the island, has almost disappeared, and English is commonly spoken. This is also the language of the pulpit and the schools. In passing through the country and among the estates, we saw numerous large groups of men and women working in the fields, under a driver, exactly as it was in the days of slavery,—with this difference only, that no driver can use a whip. Such of the labourers as we met in the corners of fields, or at the

gates by the road-side, or driving cattle on the road, seemed half afraid to converse with us, lest they should be detected; but we learned from some of them what they thought of their present condition, which we found to be unsatisfactory to them. During two days of the week, out of the seven, they are partially disenthralled. The Saturday market is a time to many of them of joy and freedom, and the Sabbath brings with it, to most, the blessings of rest and of public worship. It is a gratifying sight to witness, as we did, numerous bands repairing from the estates, on the first day of the week, to their respective places of public worship, habited in their holiday dresses; the women bearing parasols, which seem quite a common appendage; and some of the men, more favoured by their masters than the rest, riding on horseback, with perhaps a boy or a girl, and sometimes a woman, taking hold of the horse's tail, for the benefit of a kindly and social drag. We only needed to believe that they were really free to rejoice in such a spectacle. The Sabbath schools are well attended by both children and adults; the day-schools not quite so well as during the later period of slavery, when masters were *compelled* to send all children of a certain age to the district school. The Government centralises, overlooks, and directs every movement of the common people; it judges education to be a benefit to the State, and has not omitted to make some provision for it. There are eight public district schools, for the gratuitous education of the young, and two Lancasterian schools, in Frederickstadt, the whole of which are supported at an annual cost of from £5,000 to £6,000. There are also in the island two Danish schools, and fourteen private schools. The total of children, of all classes, under instruction, is 1,259. The children of the peasantry who receive education, are mostly confined to those of a very early age, and this is given during a very limited period of the day. We consider the schools in Santa Cruz to be in all respects much less satisfactory than in most of the British colonies. The Lutheran church has its ministers, who preach in the Danish language; and the English and American Episcopalians have a minister in Christianstadt. The great body of the common people attend the Moravian chapels. The Roman Catholics have a handsome edifice in the capital.

THE PLANTERS.

Santa Cruz contains 128 sugar estates, which make an average annual amount of sugar of 110 hogsheads each. It has thirty cattle or stock estates, chiefly in pasture. The number of resident proprietors is sixty-seven; of non-residents, twenty-seven. The absentee proprietors pay a duty to the Government of five per cent. on the gross revenue of their estates, which amounted, last year, to 11,416 dollars. The export duty on sugar shipped to Denmark is five per cent. *ad valorem*—on sugar shipped to foreign ports, ten per cent. The import duty levied in Denmark is, on sugar from Santa Cruz, eighty-nine cents per cwt.; on foreign sugars, one dollar, forty cents. These differences, with twenty cents on the Sound duties, making in all about 3s. per cwt., give an advantage to the colonists in the home market, and enable them to pay more easily the heavy colonial taxation to which they are subject. In no part of the West Indies that we visited, are the sugar estates, in general, so handsome and complete as in Santa Cruz, and nowhere is a better commodity produced. The value of property is much reduced, owing to the recent fall in the price of sugar in Europe, and partly, perhaps, from the suspense in which the planters remain as to the period of complete emancipation. We visited two estates adjoining each other, that came into the hands of the present proprietors as a mortgage on a bond of £40,000. Eight years ago, the sum of £32,000 was offered for them and refused. The present market value is believed not to exceed £20,000. In one part of the island, an arrangement was pointed out to us, by which the cost of producing sugar had been much lessened. A planter possessing large capital, and having several properties of his own, or leased to him, so far improved the works on one of the estates as to make them sufficient for the manufacture of the canes grown on the whole. Of course there are many planters whose means do not enable them thus to economise supervision and labour. The operation of sugar making and of sugar refining by means of the vacuum pan, which we noticed in Santa Cruz, were peculiarly interesting to us. No fears need be entertained of the well-doing of the planters of this colony, if justice be done to the people. The crop of 1849, the first year of transition from slavery to comparative freedom, was 12,000 hogsheads of fifteen cwt. each, which, at £13 sterling per hogshead, as the nett price in the European market, realised £156,000.

The rum *shipped* was 653,820 gallons, which, at 15d. per gallon, would realise £40,860. The molasses, 439,167 gallons, at 8d. per gallon, would produce £14,640. Total nett value of the produce shipped, £211,500. The sums thus realised are independent of the value of the same articles consumed in the colony itself, and of articles produced and disposed of, but not enumerated. The number of labourers in the colony is known and published; the rate of wages paid to the labourers of each class is also known, because it is fixed by Government. From these data it appears that the exact amount of predial wages paid in the same year, was £73,917 1s. 10d., which includes the wages for labour on the stock estates. The wages thus paid to the stock estate labourers are presumed to be equal to the extra wages paid on sugar plantations for extra work during crop, and for the maintenance of the sick and aged. According to a common calculation in the West Indies, the amount of wages must be doubled to represent *all the actual outgoings* of a sugar estate. This would make the expenditure of the island, in 1849, to be £147,834, against a nett income of £211,500, leaving a fair margin for profit. This calculation is founded on the sale of only 12,000 hogsheads of sugar, produced under unfavourable circumstances in a year of transition and change; but the *average* produce of the colony is 14,000 hogsheads, so that present and future profits may be estimated as much higher. We cannot but think that the planters of Santa Cruz are, in general, doing well, and we hope that a brighter and better day is dawning on the peasantry. Whilst we are confident that their condition is greatly improved since a partial emancipation has been conferred upon them, we see plainly that they are yet in a state of serfage, and only nominally free. It is true, that no punishments can be summarily inflicted by owners or overseers, and that wages are paid for labour performed. The children are, or are required to be, sent to school for a limited period, and the sick and aged may have their wants moderately supplied. But the people have no power to change their masters or occupation at pleasure; and they are compelled to work in gangs in the field, where the women are more in number than the men. They are watched over and stimulated to labour by drivers, who construe what they call a hard word into impertinence,—a grave offence under any form of slavery,—and for which the offender is not unfrequently harassed by an appeal to the magistrate. These things are deeply trying to human nature, infuse discontent, and are unsafe to the body politic. It was our intention to have annexed the regulations to which the former slaves are subjected, but we find them too long for insertion. They would, we think, throw little light on the condition of the peasantry beyond that already given. The statistics of the colony show a large decrease in the export of sugar, as compared with the early part of the present century, and a great falling off of the labouring population, arising from the excess of deaths over births during the period of slavery. We have reason to fear that the deaths are now equal, if not superior, in number, to the births among the peasantry. This is a state of things that must be highly unsatisfactory to the philanthropist and to the legislator.

ST. THOMAS.

On landing at the foot of St. Thomas, we repaired to the large and handsome hotel at the water's edge, kept by a Frenchman, where we sat down every day at a public table, frequented by visitors from many nations, and speaking a variety of languages. The flags of England, America, Spain, Holland, Hamburgh, and France floated in the harbour, and the streets of the town were thronged and busy. The population of this modern Tyre is 10,560 of persons permanently resident; its fixed and floating population together are about 12,000. The introduction, so kindly furnished us by the Governor-general of the Danish West Indies, secured to us the attentions and assistance of the authorities of the place. The island of St. Thomas has a rocky surface, and a sterile soil; and, having encountered a long succession of dry seasons, its naturally poor sugar estates have become still poorer: some have lately been abandoned, and others are struggling for existence. There are eighty families of free persons living in the country, and 275 families of the nominally emancipated. There are thirty-two sugar properties, most of them small ones, three of which belong to the Crown of Denmark. The slaves who lived in the town were made unconditionally free, but the slaves who lived on the estates in the country, 2,000 in number, are little bettered in their condition. They cannot change their masters any more than in Santa Cruz; but if they are ill-treated they may complain to the police master. If they absent themselves from the field gang, or neglect their work,

they are sent to him to be punished, who orders them to be imprisoned or sent to hard labour, at his discretion, and sometimes to be flogged. "They are often flogged, and miserably flogged too," said to us one of their fellow-labourers, whom we met and conversed with on the road. The wages of field labour are cut down by law to fourpence a day, or one shilling and eightpence per week of five days, and they have no provisions found them. They have provision grounds, but these lately failed from drought, and the wonder is how they can subsist and maintain their families. "But they do subsist," said one of the functionaries to us. We had proof of this, as we looked at them in their miserable cabins, many of which were wretched enough. There are five public schools in the island, having 136 very young children, which is all the gratuitous education given, except that which is afforded, under Government licence, in the Sabbath schools of the Dutch Reformed and Moravian ministers. Attended by the police master or judge, we went to the prison, which is in the fort, under a guard of soldiers. The rooms allowed to criminals and misdemeanants are more like dungeons than ordinary places of confinement for offenders. The authorities say they intend to build a new prison as soon as they can afford it, but that they must build a new hospital first. Many of the prisoners were confined for neglecting their work, leaving the estates, or using impertinent language: they are committed for one, two, or three weeks, wear an iron ring on their necks, and work in the chain-gang out of doors. Poor people from the estates, who have offensive ulcers, are sent to the fort. The disgraceful punishment of flogging for petty predial offences is on the decline, but is still practised. Larceny is rather common, and we should wonder if it were otherwise, when education is neglected,—when the full wages of a labourer are only fourpence a day,—and provisions are scarce and dear from the long drought. The labourers are allowed by their masters, in the very dry weather, to cut wood and sell it, in order to eke out the means of subsistence. If the people were free, they would remove to other islands where wages are better; but as serfs they are shamefully oppressed both in body and purse. The town of St. Thomas, the only town in the island, is a free port, and commands an extensive trade in the Western Archipelago. Its merchants are wealthy. It was represented to us as a very depraved place, owing greatly, we suppose, to the continual flux of foreign sailors, and a large floating population. More than half the children baptised are illegitimate; but notwithstanding the gloomy statistics afforded us, we were glad to learn that there prevails an increasing regard to outward decency of conduct, and an increasing desire to enter honourably on married life. The attendance on public worship is much larger than it was, only two years ago. The minister of the Reformed church told us that he was greatly encouraged to continue in the colony, and to go on with his work. The island being small, we were able to ride over it easily in two days. The notary public of the colony, himself a planter, obligingly accompanied us and our wives in making the tour, which proved a very interesting one. The long dry weather had withered the cane crops, and had reduced the average growth of the fields, which is 2,000 hogsheads per annum, to little more than 600 hogsheads. The works on some of the estates were going fast to decay, and almost all the properties looked poverty-struck. The grand outlines of nature, however, remained the same: the views from the hills are highly picturesque and beautiful, especially at one point, where we surveyed, almost with rapture, the islands of Tortola and St. John, with the fine blue waters of the ocean between them.

ST. JOHN'S.

This island, separated from St. Thomas by a channel of the ocean, six miles broad, is the last of the Danish possessions in these seas. It has eighteen sugar estates, and contains 2,450 inhabitants. The estates are good and productive. The labouring population have nearly the same low wages, and are under the same coercive regulation, which, in some late instances, had been exercised with greater severity than the law, severe as it is, could ever have contemplated. Some well-disposed people, helpers in the Moravian church, had been flogged for slight transgressions of discipline, who had never been flogged as slaves; and we heard of one well-authenticated case, in which a young man, for stealing canes, had been so severely flogged as to die of the lacerations, four days after. The labourers, generally speaking, are abject and crouching, and unwilling to give evidence of the wrongs that come under their notice. We did not visit St. John's, through want of time, but these facts were communicated to us by trustworthy

persons. No such wrongs can be practised with impunity in the British colonies, where the people are free. Emancipation, entire and unconditional, will be found the only remedy for them in the dependencies of Denmark.

TORTOLA.

This island, our own colony, has a poor soil. It produced a fair quantity of sugar when the markets were high, but now yields very little. The landowners are reduced in their circumstances, but the common people obtain a living. They subsist chiefly by cultivating their provision grounds, and selling the surplus of the produce, and by fishing.

(To be continued.)

Poetry.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW OF AMERICA.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

The evil days have come : the poor
Are made a prey ;
Bar up the hospitable door,
Put out the fire-lights, point no more
The wanderer's way.

For pity now is crime : the chain
Which binds our States
Is melted at the hearth in twain,
Is rusted by her tears' soft rain :
Close up her gates.

Our Union, like a glacier stirred
By voice below,
Or bell of kine, or wing of bird,
A beggar's crust, or kindly word,
May overthrow.

Poor whispering tremblers !—yet we boast
Our blood and name :
Bursting its century-bolted frost,
Each gray cairn of the Northman's coast
Cries out for shame !

Oh, for the open firmament,
The prairie free,
The desert hill-side, cavern-rent,
The Pawnee's lodge, the Arab's tent,
The Bushman's tree !

Than web of Persian loom most rare,
Or soft divan,
Better the rough rock, bleak and bare,
Or hollow tree, which man may share
With suffering man.

I hear a voice : "Thus saith the law,
Let Love be dumb :
Clasping her liberal hands, in awe,
Let sweet-lipped Charity withdraw
From hearth and home."

I hear another voice : "The poor
Are thine to feed ;
Turn not the outcast from thy door,
Nor give to bonds and wrong once more
Whom God hath freed."

Dear Lord ! between that law and Thee,
No choice remains ;
Yet not untrue to man's decree,
Though spurning its rewards, is he
Who bears its pains.

Not mine sedition's trumpet-blast
And threatening word ;
I read the lesson of the past,
That firm endurance wins at last
More than the sword.

Oh, clear-eyed Faith, and Patience, thou
So calm and strong,
Angels of God ! be near to show
His glorious future shining through
Our night of wrong !

OPERATION OF THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW OF THE UNITED STATES.

CASE OF HENRY LONG.

In our last we gave the particulars of the trial of this poor unfortunate fugitive, on whose behalf our friend Mr. Tappan and others greatly interested themselves. The following mournful facts, which we gather from our American files, reveal the issue of his case.

A Richmond paper of last week contains the following advertisement :—

"HENRY LONG AT AUCTION."

"We will sell on Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, a likely young man, 25 years of age. He is an experienced tavern servant, having graduated at one of the principal hotels in New York.

"Jan. 17."

"PULLIAM & SLADE, Auctioneers."

The sequel of the story is thus told by a Richmond correspondent of the *Evening Post* :—

It was announced in the daily papers of yesterday, that Henry Long would be sold this morning, at ten o'clock, at an auction mart near the City Hotel. At that hour the people began to assemble. A few minutes after ten, Henry Long was brought into the auction-room, and seated near two women having infant children—two boys about ten years of age, and two smaller children—all to be sold. Long maintained, evidently, a forced smile, and was much agitated. It was only when spoken to that he appeared relieved. There were many soon gathered about him—who put various questions to him. I shall detail the conversation in a categorical form, as the truest and the shortest mode of conveying all that is necessary in regard to such speculations as have been made about him. His manner, throughout, was modest and civil, and his replies to questions, which were very much the same, repeated over to him by the different parties coming to see him, were sensible.

Long, said one and another, are you glad to get back to Virginia? They say you played the fiddle! Didn't you sing or play "Carry me back to old Virginny!" Have you got a family? I have got a wife in New York. She is a white woman, said one, isn't she, Long? So the papers say. Long, said one man, in a weak and beneficent tone, were the abolitionists good to you? why didn't they come to you when you were sick, and take care of you? Well, what did they do for you then? Now, Long, had'nt you rather be back here, a slave in Virginia, than to be free in New York, where they don't care anything about you, you know; now do they? Ain't you sorry you are brought back? Well the best of men have their downfalls.

Such were, literally, the interrogations put to Long. After being thus, with others, participating in the conversation with Long, probably 200 persons had collected within the room and about the doors, when the auctioneer called out, "Whoever is going to buy niggers will come down to the other office."

At that other office were about twenty slaves of both sexes, and variety of ages. One legitimate black, about twenty-two years of age, sold for 900 dollars. An old man sold for about 85 dollars. A good-looking mulatto boy of nineteen was knocked off at 800 dollars. His mother, who is a cook here in the city, was present. The boy has been in a factory here. When he found that he had to go to Danville, he burst into tears; the mother, too, sobbing and sighing in a subdued and smothered tone, exhibiting a spontaneous burst of grief that was irresistible to them. The boy said that he had been at Danville before; that there was no chance for him to make anything; that they worked him from daylight until dark; and again weeping bitterly, he turned away, a perfect personification of a forlorn hope. I returned to where Long was awaiting his execution. By that time, about eleven o'clock, a number of the members of the Convention and of the Legislature congregated about, and hundreds were coming and going, thus contributing to a large number permanently there.

From twelve to one o'clock, the President of the Senate stood close by the stand of the auctioneer, whilst many of the members of each of the bodies of the Legislature, which was then in session, as well as of the Convention, which was also in session, were scattered about, waiting the demonstration. Many left between ten and twelve; others arriving to keep the pressing crowd within. All passed on quietly, with no noisy expressions—some saying "the damned nigger ought to be strung up;" another, that he was not to be blamed for trying to get away, if he could; another, that very likely some abolitionist was then by, watching their movements.

Amongst the crowd was one young man, who from his dress and expressions appeared as if he might have suddenly come into possession of property, which he was not accustomed to, and had, in consequence, become suddenly elevated in his own estimation. He swaggered about, to the merriment and approving smiles of a few, but met with no encouragement from the mass, swearing that he was about to buy the "nigger," so that he could give him thirteen every morning before breakfast; he would fix him, he would lay it on him, whilst flourishing his cane to show how he would do it.

LONG ON THE BLOCK.

About two o'clock, the auctioneer came in, and Henry Long was

placed on the stand. The auctioneer turning to him, and taking his hat off, asked him, in a low tone, about his health, strength, soundness, &c., to all of which questions Henry responded favourably.

The auctioneer then said, "There is one condition about this sale. Bonds are to be given by the purchaser that this man shall be carried South, and that he shall be sold and kept South." Then, clenching his hand, with a very energetic gesture, and in emphatic language, declared that before Long left his possession, he would see that the terms were fully complied with, and he should know his man well, before he gave Long up or received the money. That drew forth a round of applause.

The auctioneer continued,—"This man is in good health and sound mind. (Doubtful if he is, on the slavery question.) I need not give you his history, that is known; and now how much shall I have bid?"—Starting the bid himself, he said "I have only 600 dollars bid. Will nobody bid more?" "I'll give 25 dollars more," said a man standing in front. "He is a good barber, good hotel waiter, and can work in the field, or do anything. He is worth a fortune to any man; he can be taken around and exhibited at the South—turned to advantage in that way; or he would be invaluable to a slave-dealer who has other slaves to sell, by advertising that Henry Long is at his place. 750 dollars I have bid, will nobody say more?" After dwelling and repeating the usual slang of the auctioneer—occupying, altogether, not five minutes, Long was knocked off to David Clopton, of Georgia—a slave-dealer of that State, where there is not a verdant field—not a yard square of green grass. The auctioneer himself was empowered to make the purchase, and immediately after knocking off the bid, he gave assurance that Long should now be taken care of, when the audience gave a vociferous round of applause, leaving the room exultingly, one man crying out, "damn the North."

For several days past many processions have been seen in the streets of slaves passing in and out of the State. They go in numbers, in proportion as the trade of the slave-dealers flourishes or declines.

The *New York Tribune* of a later date informs us, that Long is again advertised for sale by his Richmond purchaser.

LOCAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGAINST THE BILL.

A new course of opposition has been adopted to this infamous law, and, as will be seen from the following sections of a Bill introduced into the Assembly of New York, by Mr. Coffin, of Oswego, an attempt is being made in the local legislatures to oppose the provisions of the Congress.

Section 1. Any person who shall arrest or attempt to arrest, or cause to be arrested, or aid in arresting, or attempt to arrest any free citizen of this State, with intent to have such citizen removed against his will beyond the jurisdiction of this State, or who shall remove, or aid directly or indirectly, in removing any such citizen against his will beyond the jurisdiction of this State, shall be deemed guilty of kidnapping, and on conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a term not exceeding ten years, and shall also be liable in a civil action to the party arrested, or attempted to be arrested or removed as aforesaid, for the damages sustained by reason of such arrest or removal, or attempted arrest or removal, as aforesaid.

Section 2. Any person who shall have openly and publicly resided in this State for one year preceding such arrest or removal, or attempted arrest or removal as aforesaid, shall in all courts and places be deemed and held to be a free citizen of this State within the true intent and meaning of this act, until the contrary is proved as provided in the next section.

Section 3. On the trial of any indictment found under this act, or of any civil action given by this act, the defendant may prove that the person charged to have been arrested or removed, or attempted to have been arrested or removed as aforesaid, was not in fact a freeman entitled to come and reside in this State; and if the jury shall be satisfied thereof, they shall acquit the defendant; but no warrant, orders, process or certificate, issued or made by any court or office, and no *ex parte* affidavit, deposition or record shall be received or admitted in evidence to establish the right to arrest or remove the person charged to have been arrested or removed, or to prove that such person is not a free citizen of this State, within the true intent and meaning of this act.

Section 4. Indictments may be found under this act, in the county where the offence shall have been committed, or in any county into or through which any free citizen so arrested as aforesaid, shall have been taken or carried.

The Bill is in direct conflict with the late act of Congress, and prohibits the execution of it, either by claimants of fugitive slaves, or by officers of the United States, under penalty of imprisonment in the state prison for ten years. The reception of the Bill was objected to, but after a debate of some length, leave was granted, and the Bill had its first reading.

CHURCH ACTION.

Clergymen throughout the Free States are still protesting in their councils and pulpits that they are giving no sanction to slavery, in as strong colours, notwithstanding that a few attempt to prove that slavery is a Divine institution.

The following spirit-stirring resolutions were adopted at the semi-annual Meeting of the Indiana Congregational Friends, held on the 28th and 29th ult., at Greensboro':—

Resolved,—That it is the right and duty of the slaves of the South to escape from slavery. And in order to accomplish this end, and to secure to themselves and their posterity the blessings of liberty, it is their right and duty to use all such means as it is the right and duty of white men to use to accomplish similar ends.

Resolved,—That we, the people of the North, one and all, owe it as a sacred duty to God, to ourselves and mankind, to incite and assist the slaves of the South to escape from slavery; and to use all means to accomplish this end which we would use, or wish others to use, to rescue us or our children from slavery.

Resolved,—That we will do what we can to instigate the slaves of the South to escape from slavery. And when they come among us we pledge to them that we will protect them by all such means as in our view God and nature have furnished us against all efforts to enslave them by whomsoever made.

Resolved,—That protection to fugitive slaves is one of the most sacred duties enjoined on us by God and humanity. And we hereby pledge ourselves to the slaves and to the world, to perform this duty, regardless of all decisions of courts, of all threats of prosecution for treason, of all enactments of Congress, of all constitutional compromises, of all threats of dissolution of the Union, of all pretended precepts of the Bible or alleged commands of God.

Resolved,—That slaveholders never did have, and never can have any rightful authority over their slaves. That the slaves owe no obedience to their masters. And that it is our duty to instigate all slaves and all men to spurn the authority and cast off the dominion of all individuals and Governments that assume the right to enslave them.

DISPERSION OF THE MEMBERS OF COLOURED CHURCHES.

The Baptist Coloured church at Buffalo has suffered a large diminution of its members in consequence of the Fugitive Slave Law. One hundred and thirty of the communicants, as we are informed by the pastor, left the place from fear of arrest on the charge of being fugitive slaves, and have passed over to Canada.

The Methodist church, in the same place, has also lost a considerable number of its members from the same cause. There is said to be among these more disposition to make a stand, and to evade or resist the law, than among their Baptist brethren. Somebody had advised them to arm themselves and defend their liberty. The Baptist pastor, however, told his people that he found in the Gospel examples which justified running away, but no examples which warranted fighting.

The Coloured Baptist church at Rochester, which formerly numbered 114 communicants, has lost them all, except two, since the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law. The pastor, a native Kentuckian, was the first to flee, and the whole flock followed him. The Coloured Baptist church at Detroit has lost eighty-four of its members from the same cause. They abandon their homes and their occupations, sell such property as they cannot conveniently carry with them, and seek refuge in Canada.

Meantime the number of captives escaping from their masters does not seem to be essentially lessened by the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Law. Since it was passed, we are informed, from the same source which furnishes us with the particulars already given, eighty-seven fugitive slaves from the South have passed through Buffalo, on their way to Canada.—*Evening Post*.

IMPRISONMENT OF FREE COLOURED BRITISH AND FRENCH SUBJECTS IN THE SOUTHERN PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(From the *New York Tribune*.)

Though the barbarous laws of the Southern States in reference to free negroes may be justified by the plea of necessity, they are none the less an outrage upon every sentiment of humanity, and a disgrace to the people and the age by which they are enacted. Very probably, it is dangerous for a community founded on slavery to allow persons of the servile race, who have enjoyed the benefits of freedom and become elevated to the dignity of manhood, to come unobstructed among its human chattels, exciting in them ideas of freedom, and stimulating the instinct of revolt. But to wise legislators, bent on the improvement, not the ruin of their country, that fact should suggest something else than an obstinate conservatism. When an institution becomes so palpably replete with danger to every interest of society, that the slightest shock threatens harm to the whole fabric, simple good sense would seem to require the most strenuous efforts for its speedy removal, and nothing but unaccountable folly can attempt to put off the evil day by paltry palliatives or tyrannical expedients. If slavery reduces a great State to such pitiable weakness, that it can be so far imperilled by the mere complexion of an innocent and well-behaved sailor, that it is compelled for very safety to shut him up in prison the moment he reaches its borders, one would naturally expect to see all the citizens of that State not positively demented, combined in the earnest endeavour to get rid of the

cause of so lamentable a condition of things. But the destiny of tyranny is ever to be blind, and tyrannical democracies form no exception to the rule. Instead of seeking safety in the way of progress and judicious reform, the holders of illegitimate and inhuman privilege cling to their unnatural and frail position, seeking to fortify, not to resign it. In vain the condemnation of the civilised world seems to be pronounced upon them; in vain reason utters her verdict; in vain the upbraiding voice of their own consciences and the recurring doubts of their own understandings. But this immobility is only apparent; the weight of public opinion and the force of circumstances in time accomplish every thing that could be desired; and the pernicious and dangerous institution is finally numbered among the things that were.

Those laws of Carolina, Louisiana and other slave States, whereby free citizens of New York, or Massachusetts, or England or France, are consigned to prison merely for having a swarthy complexion, have been again and again branded with the fitting stigma in the North and in England. At last they have been brought to public notice in the Legislative Assembly of France, in the manner detailed below.

[Here follows the account of the proceedings of the French National Assembly, as given in the *Reporter* for December last, p. 189.]

The *Paris National*, of November 27, also devotes to this subject its leading article, which is signed by M. Schoelcher, and treats the matter more at length than is done in the above brief report of his speech. The *National* concludes in the following terms:—

"We do not ask for retaliation, for that would be no less barbarous than the laws of which we complain. Nor do we desire that this should be made a question of war or even of rupture. The use of force against the weak is an indignity; with a nation so redoubtable as North America, it would not be the means of gaining anything. We desire simply that our Government should endeavour to obtain a revision of those articles in the American legislation with which we have the right to be dissatisfied. Let it join with the Cabinet of St. James in making at Washington courteous but earnest representations on the subject; let the two great nations of Europe address themselves together to the States of the American Confederation; let them pursue this as a sacred work, and no doubt they will obtain from the wisdom and generosity of the Congress of the United States an honourable response on a question in which are engaged the sovereign principles of civilisation and reason, as well as the imprescriptible prerogatives of human dignity."

We fear that the *National* is under an illusion, and that relief will not easily be obtained for the grievance so justly complained of. Still we should be glad to see the effort made by the Governments of France and England, in the spirit above recommended. It would, at least, add something to that power of public opinion before which slavery is surely destined to disappear.

Since the above was in type we have received additional particulars:—

A motion has been made in the House of Representatives by Mr. Giddings, for leave to offer "a resolution requesting the President of the United States, if consistent with public interests, to communicate any correspondence which had taken place between Great Britain and the United States, respecting the imprisonment of British seamen." The motion, however, was defeated.

The following statements have been made public, through the American press, and are sufficiently indicative that the matter will have to engage the attention of the Congress.

"A very embarrassing difficulty has arisen, the adjustment and termination of which it is alike difficult to foresee; and it arises out of that unhappy source of so much political dissension—slavery. It will be remembered that more than a year ago several coloured men, who are British subjects, and who visited Charleston, South Carolina, on board of merchant ships, were taken on shore and imprisoned, according to a recent law of that State, which allows no foreign negroes who are free to be at large in South Carolina. When the ships were ready to sail, these men were set at liberty, and again put on board. Such proceedings being contrary to the laws of nations, the English Government naturally applied to the United States Government for redress and the abolition of so unjust a custom, alleging, and truly, that to imprison the subjects of foreign nations was a violation of common justice, of international rights, and of the treaties existing between Great Britain and the United States. But no redress could be obtained, as the United States Government stated that the imprisonment was a matter of local police in the State of South Carolina, with which the Federal Government could not interfere; to which it was rejoined, that all treaties between the United States and other nations were made by the Federal Government, and as there was nothing in the Constitution of the United States that warranted the imprisonment of innocent subjects or citizens of other nations, the authorities at Washington were bound to protect foreigners from imprisonment under a mere local or State law, that was evidently contrary to the Constitution of the United States. The subject was introduced into Parliament, but it was passed by, owing to a statement that the two Governments were still engaged in correspondence, with a view to adjusting all difficulties arising out of the peculiar laws of South Carolina.

"Now, however, quite a new phase of this difficulty has been presented, and one that involves many grave considerations. The British Consul at Charleston, Mr. George B. Matthews, has applied to the Governor of South Carolina 'direct,' upon the subject of these State laws, hoping that they will be rescinded, and the Governor, in his official capacity, replies in due form to Mr. Matthews; both sides, indeed, corresponding as the representatives of two sovereign States. South Carolina is the nullification State, and apparently anxious to head a rebellion which may have for its object a severance of the Union and the establishment of a distinct Southern republic, not that South Carolina has any chance of success in so wild a scheme. But that is not the point, or rather it only gives a kind of sinister point to the consular and gubernatorial correspondence; for it is contended that, on the part of the Consul, it seems like an encouragement of disunion, and an insult to the Federal Government, to address any individual State on foreign affairs; while on the part of the Governor it is added, that he writes of South Carolina as if she were an independent nation, and speaks of the 'Governments of Great Britain and South Carolina,' quite coolly, and as if *en règle*. Thus the affairs stand at present.

"The *New York Courier and Enquirer*, in a long article, contends that the President of the United States is bound to vindicate the honour of the Federal Government, by immediately recalling the *exequatur* of Mr. Matthews, and thus to deprive him of all consular power in this country, urging that the offence of addressing the Governor of a State officially, instead of the Federal authorities at Washington, should not and ought not to be overlooked, even for a moment. But, in the meanwhile, it is very honestly intimated that the Federal Government should disregard and disallow any such law as that of South Carolina, and carry out its treaties with Great Britain in good faith. A few days more, and we shall have further developments."

The United States correspondent of the *Times* gives the following as the latest information:—

"The correspondence between her Britannic Majesty's Consul (Mr. Matthews) and the Governor of South Carolina, respecting the imprisonment of free coloured persons arriving in the port of Charleston, has been referred to a select committee of members from that city, with power to sit during the recess of the legislature. It is believed that the law complained of will be modified, so as to simply require that such persons shall be obliged to keep on board their vessels from sunset to sunrise."

AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE,

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE AMERICAN MINISTER TO BRAZIL.

The documents communicated by the President to the Senate on the 12th of December, in relation to the traffic in slaves in Brazil, under the American flag, have been made public. We give a brief statement of the origin of the troubles and the result of the investigations instituted at Rio Janeiro. The information was transmitted to the United States Government by the American Minister at Rio, Mr. Tod; from whose statement it appears that the infamous traffic is still carried on to a great extent.

Not less than 45,000 negroes have been imported into Brazil within the last year. More or less of every cargo are murdered on the voyage, and the survivors are too often used as mere beasts of burden. By far the greater portion of it is carried on in vessels built in the United States, and under the flag of our country.

The American consul at Rio, in the months of May and July, 1847, took sundry depositions, clearly establishing the fact that the American brig *Senator* proceeded to the coast of Africa, in the month of December, 1846, and brought to the coast of Brazil a large cargo of negroes. The depositions represent a scene of cruelty and horror indescribable.

In January, 1848, the American bark *Laurens* was seized and sent to the United States. On the 27th of May, in the same year, the United States vessel *Alleghany* arrived at Rio, to be used in making seizures, where there was evidence of an intention to carry on the slave-trade, under our flag. On the 30th of September following, Mr. Tod recommended the Government to recommend the abolition of all trade, in American vessels, between Brazil and the African coast. On the 24th of July, in the same year, Mr. Tod issued a circular, addressed to the American consuls in Brazil, with a view to obtain the statistics of the slave-trade, as connected with American vessels. On the 11th of January, 1849, after measures had been adopted to stop the illegal traffic, Mr. Tod still complained that the American flag was still used by the illegal traders in human flesh.

On the 8th of January, 1850, Mr. Tod wrote to the Secretary of State that fifty thousand Africans are annually imported into Brazil, and sold as slaves for life. One half of this number are introduced through the facilities directly and indirectly afforded by the American flag.

If the Brazilian statutes upon the subject were faithfully enforced, says Mr. Tod, the slave-trade could not continue. Unfortunately, however, those clothed with their administration and execution, with some honourable exceptions, connive at the traffic, and silently acquiesce in the violation of the laws they are sworn to uphold. Whilst the head of the Government, and many of the most enlightened statesmen of the

Empire, are believed to consider the slave-trade as inimical to the true interests of their country, a greater number profess to be honestly of the opinion that the welfare of Brazil demands the continuance of the trade; and, after defending the traffic on the ground of necessity, many proceed to contend that the condition of the African is meliorated when he becomes a Brazilian slave. However repugnant to the principles of sound political economy, and of enlightened humanity, these doctrines may be, they are very generally entertained by the people of Brazil. When to these impressions is added the tremendous power of the Prince, wielded by those who reap the immediate profits of the traffic, it may be inferred that the few who labour for its suppression have very embarrassing obstacles to contend with.

In this unequal struggle between humanity and patriotism on the one hand, and cupidity and imaginary self-interest on the other, the influence of the United States flag is scarcely felt, except in the support of the slave dealer—the seizures made by American men-of-war weighing as nothing in the scale with the facilities which our colours afford in the transportation to Africa of slave goods, slave crews, and slave vessels.

Many of our vessels have been seized and sent to the United States for trial, on a charge of participating in the slave traffic; but how seldom, except when slaves have been absolutely found on board, has a condemnation taken place. Forfeitures scarcely furnish exceptions to the general rule. Having its inception in a distant land, the crime remains unpunished, because a conviction is in a great measure dependent upon a chain of circumstantial evidence, and an intimate familiarity with the mode of conducting the trade, which are alone attainable upon the spot where the offence originated.

Apart from the odium which the participation of our flag and our citizens in the trade brings upon our country, it not unfrequently happens that private parties in the United States become sufferers. The case of the bark *Herald* is an instance in point. Masters and mates of vessels are sometimes seduced into a betrayal of the interests of their employers, and become pirates, in the hope of suddenly accumulating fortunes.—Might not a repetition of outrages similar to those which mark the case of the *Herald*, seriously endanger the peace of the countries?

A letter addressed by Mr. Gorham Parks, late United States Consul at Rio, to Mr. Tod, gives the following important facts:—

The number of American vessels which, since the 1st of July, 1844, until the 1st of October, 1849, sailed for the coast of Africa from Rio de Janeiro, is ninety-three. Of these vessels, all except five have been sold or delivered on the coast of Africa, and have been engaged in bringing over slaves, and many of them have been captured with the slaves on board. The value of the cargoes it is impossible to ascertain, as the amount of property on which duties are paid at the Custom-house by no means indicates the true amount carried over. They were all of them loaded with goods with which to purchase slaves, and with provisions and water for their support on their passage over.

The number of American vessels which have entered from the coast, during the same period, has been fifty-one. The value of imports from Africa, excepting slaves, nothing. There is no trade between either the west or east coast of Africa and Brazil, excepting what is connected directly or indirectly with the slave-trade.

The English cruisers form the principal impediment to the prosecution of this traffic; and, as our Government does not permit vessels carrying our flag to be searched, our vessels are preferred to most, if not all others, by the slave-traders, as offering perfect protection for the traffic from their dreaded enemy.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE—THE MANNER OF CONDUCTING IT.

New York, January 31, 1851.

A very important arrest was made here a day or two since, but it was kept secret because the officers were on the track of other parties who had committed the same crime. It was that of Captain William Tyson, on the charge of having fitted out in this port, about two years ago, a vessel called the *Raymon de Zaldo*, for the slave-trade. The information was given by one of the seamen, and it was on his affidavit that Captain Tyson was arrested. It is in proof that they landed 650 slaves at Cuba. In relation to the subject of the slave-trade carried on by Cuba, a correspondent from Havana writes as follows:—

"Notwithstanding the treaty with England and America, in regard to the slave-trade, there has been imported to this island alone, the last four weeks, fourteen hundred slaves from the coast of Africa; and this is done with the knowledge and connivance of the Captain-general. Torn from their homes, their families, the scenes endeared to them from early childhood, from all that makes life sweet—for the black skin covers a heart that has its loves, and its sympathies, as well as a white one—carried to a strange land, and, nearly naked, kept at work in the broiling sun, from early morn until late at night; paying, with the lash of the task-master, most dearly for any symptom of fatigue, and for the least apparent obstinacy thrown into chains, and compelled to work chained together in couples, or dragging a heavy ball to their legs. I have read of such things before, and supposed that much was said for effect, but

now I am satisfied that the reality far exceeds what I before looked upon as an overdrawn picture.

"Very few are aware of the *modus operandi* of the slave-trade, as it is at present conducted. I think, therefore, that the testimony of the witnesses in this case will be read with interest, as it shows the mode of proceeding.

"John Gilbert, representing himself as a native of Calcutta, swore this forenoon that he shipped as a seaman on board the *Ramon de Zaldo*, at Rio, from whence the vessel proceeded to Paranagua, and he then became cook and steward, in which capacity he remained on board until they arrived at Cabenda, in Africa. On their way to Cabenda, they stopped at Ambriz and the river Congo. There were on board the brig a Portuguese crew of twenty-eight men, including captain and mate. The vessel lay at Ambriz twenty-four hours. The cargo consisted of farina, beans, jerked beef, water and rice, and would subsist 700 persons for five months.

"The captain and some of the American seamen left at Cabenda, but the mate, who is since dead, remained on board. About one-third of the provisions was put ashore at the River Congo, and also several crates of crockery ware. There still, however, remained on board about twice as much farina, &c., as would supply a full cargo of slaves during an ordinary voyage. We remained, said Gilbert, at the River Congo one week; it was expected that a cargo of slaves would have been shipped there, but their plans were frustrated by finding in the harbour two French war steamers and an English brig of war. They could find no slaves at Ambriz, or they would have shipped them there. On arriving at Cabenda, not a vessel lay there; and a signal was hoisted from our mast head, as we were sailing in, which was instantly replied to by an answering signal from a flag staff on shore.

"In a few moments a number of boats, filled with slaves, were seen coming from the shore towards us, and just before they reached our gang-way the anchor was dropped, and within twenty-three minutes from that time a cargo of six hundred and fifty slaves was transferred from the twenty boats which brought them off to the brig. The vessel was immediately got under way, and left the harbour with the six hundred and fifty slaves, and a crew of thirty-three or thirty-four, including Capt. Carlo (a Portuguese), and Mello and Carvillo, first and second mates. The cargo of slaves was conveyed to, and landed at Havana.

"The brig left Rio for Paranagua, and arrived at Cabenda. I and two other persons were sent ashore at Cabenda, where we remained nineteen days, and then departed for Brazil in a vessel belonging to the establishment, from which the slaves were shipped on board the *Ramon de Zaldo*. The brig was afterwards sold at Rio.

"William F. Price deposed that the *Ramon de Zaldo* left New York in ballast; she took a cargo of flour from Virginia to Bahia; she continued on to Rio in ballast, where she discharged it, took in fresh cargo, and proceeded on to Paranagua."—*Inquirer*.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Barbadoes, January 29, 1851.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that at a meeting of the Committee of the Barbadoes Auxiliary Anti-slavery Society, held on the 7th inst., the following resolutions, with reference to the Fugitive Slave Law of the United States, were adopted:—

"1. That in the opinion of this Committee, the maintenance of slavery is repugnant to the Divine law, unjust to the slaves held in bondage, dangerous to the community in which the system is upheld, and demoralising to the parties claiming property in their fellow-men.

"2. That the legislation of the United States Government on the question of slavery, and the horrors perpetrated under the protection of that legislation, demand the indignant and unqualified reprobation of the civilised world.

"3. That the Fugitive Slave Bill recently enacted by the United States Government, by which the condition of the slaves and free-coloured people in all the States is rendered intolerable—the lives of the one placed at the mercy of reckless men, and the liberty of the other subject to the caprice of prejudiced and covetous men-hunters—is such an outrage upon humanity, and violation of every moral obligation, as cannot fail to draw down the just indignation of Christian men in all parts of the world.

"4. That the coloured population of the United States (free and slave) are entitled to the lively sympathy and solace of the friends of freedom everywhere, and that it is the earnest desire of this Committee that the efforts making to obtain the repeal of the iniquitous Fugitive Slave Bill may soon be crowned with success.

"5. That the Committee hope, not only for the repeal of this law, but for the abolition of the disgraceful and unjust practice which obtains in the slave States, of confining in prison natives of this and other countries arriving therein, on account of the accident of complexion, and of all the enactments by which the abominable institution is maintained.

"That with the view of demonstrating our sympathy and solace with the coloured population of the United States, public meetings be held in the city, and such of the rural parishes as may be practicable, and pecu-

niary contributions solicited, received, and forwarded to the Anti-slavery Society of America, to aid such fugitives as are in need of assistance, in escaping from the operation of this most iniquitous law.

"7. That copies of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the Parent Society in England, to the American Anti-slavery Society, and to the several auxiliaries in the neighbouring colonies."

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

THOMAS JONES,

Secretary to Barbadoes Auxiliary.

John Scoble, Esq.

Foreign Intelligence.

NEW MEXICO.—I am informed, says the correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, that there is a much stronger disposition, among leading men here, in favour of slavery, than was suspected some time since. There will, no doubt, be a vigorous effort made to repeal the law which Mr. Webster has been kindly helping Providence to enact for the security of this territory. Whether the effort should succeed is a matter of future trial. *Partially*, it has succeeded already, and there are now, as nearly as I can ascertain, some twenty or thirty negro slaves held in this territory, notwithstanding the Divine prohibitory enactment in which Mr. Webster expressed so much confidence. If we shall succeed in consecrating this territory to freedom, we shall certainly feel very thankful to God for it, but feel under no particular obligations to Messrs. Webster, Cass, *et id omne genus*.

UTAH.—There has been no legislation on the subject of slavery, as their constitution declares, and the people believe, that "all men are created free and equal," and they very sensibly conclude that slavery can have no legal existence where it has never been legalised.

There are, indeed, a few black persons, perhaps a hundred, in the valley, who have been sent in by, and who still live with, their former masters, but they are not considered as *slaves*; and I have been told by Brigham Young, who is Governor of the State, President of the Church, High Priest, Revelator, &c., that the idea of property in men would not be entertained a moment by any Court in the State—and with the Mormons, (and the people here are nearly all Mormons,) the voice of *Brigham* is, to them, as the voice of *God*.—*Ibid*.

THE FRENCH COLONIES.—**CAYENNE.**—The accounts received from this colony up to the 11th of January last are most deplorable. Pestilence and death were riding more fiercely than ever on the wings of the wind, and levelling their shafts at the high and mighty of the land, and amid perfumed saloons as well as in the humble dwellings of the indigent and the obscure. Foremost among the numerous new victims that have fallen before the prevailing yellow fever, since the date of our previous accounts, we find the two loftiest names of the colony—the head of the Church and the head of the State—the Vicar Apostolic of the province; the Abbé Pollet, and his Excellency Louis Eugene Maissin, Governor of French Guiana. The sudden death of his Excellency, on the 6th inst., and in the prime of a life that seemed, a few hours before, to promise a long and brilliant career, had spread universal dismay and grief throughout the community. By a curious, though not, perhaps, injudicious general order from home, his Excellency's place has been supplied by the Attorney-general, but now acting Governor of the colony, M. Vidal de Lin-gendes."

By the dreadful epidemic which has raged in Cayenne the agriculture of the colony, which had been rapidly recovering from the shock of emancipation, has received a severe blow. Solitude and grief reigned over its plains, the fields were deserted, and the standing crops of sugar and other products were left to rot unreaped upon the ground. Commerce was at an end, and happy will it be for the ill-fated colony, if the horrors of famine be not added to the ravages of pestilence.

CUBA.—The following is a comprehensive retrospect of the commerce of this island of Cuba for the past year; and of the prospects for the ensuing season:—

"The sugar crop of last year, although rather larger than any previous one, fell a good deal short of the exaggerated estimates put forth at the beginning of the season; the exports from here and Matanzas have reached only 1,041,661 boxes, while the whole quantity shipped from the island, in clayed and Muscovado, made the equivalent of 1,358,200 boxes, against 1,143,300 boxes in 1849; it yielded 63,000 boxes more than that of 1847. The exports from the south side were 20,000 boxes less than in 1849, but those from Sagua, Cardenas, and Remedios, showed an increase of 40,000 boxes over that year.

"The United States took a pretty large quantity of our sugars, considering that their home crop afforded more than any previous one, having yielded 250,000 hogsheads. The exports to that country from this island made up the equivalent of 426,000 boxes, against 298,700 boxes in 1849. France received a good deal more than usual, say a quantity (chiefly in Muscovadoes) equal to 133,000 boxes, against 67,000 boxes in 1849. To the Italian ports there went forward 78,000 boxes, against

33,800 boxes. The shipments of whites for the Baltic were about 50,000 boxes more than in the foregoing year. On the other hand, there has been a progressive decrease in the exports to Spain during the past two years, which country took 30,000 boxes less than in 1849. Upon analysing the comparative division of exports, we find that although the crop of last year afforded an increase of 215,000 boxes over the preceding one, yet as the above-named places received collectively 265,000 boxes more than in 1849, there remained available for British ports, and those of the North Sea, at least 50,000 boxes less than in 1849.

"The course of prices during the season was maintained on a pretty high and very equable footing, with fewer variations than usual, and towards the close of the year they experienced a still further advance. There was a steady general demand in the spring and summer months, aided by the greater requirements of France and Italy; and a very active inquiry showed itself for the United States in the autumn. Freights ruled moderately throughout the season, and became very low for Europe in the fall, which facilitated operations and enhanced prices. Under these circumstances, the stock of sugar remaining in the hands of planters at the latter end of the season was very much smaller than usual. The rumours and excitements occasioned by the attempted and projected invading expeditions did not much affect the export trade, except in so far as having in some degree influenced the exchanges, owing to the smaller sales of dry goods, &c. The cholera, although curtailing in some measure the yield of the crop, tended rather to improve the value of produce than the reverse. Our planters have, on the whole, had reason to be satisfied, both with the quantity furnished by the crop, and the prices they obtained for it.

"The weather, taking into view all its fluctuations, has, on the average, been favourable for the crop that is now in the field, and looking at the prospects of the yield, in so far as affected thereby, an abundant production might be expected. But planters have had to contend with many adverse circumstances, which cannot fail to have a counteracting effect. The cholera has seriously reduced the labouring force on many plantations, and during its prevalence the field operations required for the due nurture and development of the growing cane were in many instances seriously interrupted. Then the increase of the tobacco crop (which this year is very much greater than ever before known) has created a formidable rival in the demand for labourers, as affording a lucrative branch of trade, and requiring a large augmentation of hands, both for the cultivation of the plant and its manufacture. Then, likewise, the increase of the white population in towns, both from natural causes and a steady flow of immigration, tends to withdraw labourers from field occupations. When all these circumstances are considered, it seems reasonable to suppose that the production of sugar in the island has reached its maximum point, unless the aggregate labouring force can be augmented, and that the yield of future crops can hardly be expected to exceed that of last year, but is more likely to fall short of it.

"The prices are opening at high rates, as planters have very elevated pretensions, and there is at present an active inquiry for Spain; but it is difficult to say whether the course of the season will justify the sanguine expectations entertained by the planters. On the one hand, we may notice the encouraging aspect of European markets, the augmenting wants of the United States, and the falling off in their home crop in consequence of the late frost, together with the probability of a diminished production in the other West India islands, if the cholera should extend its baneful influence; all which seem to promise that prices will rule above those of last year. But, on the other hand, many circumstances present themselves calculated very seriously to depress the exchanges, which would not only weigh heavily on prices, but might impede operations to a material extent. In conjunction with a good yield of the sugar crop anticipated there is a vast increase in the production of the tobacco crop, which finds eager purchasers; and, added to all the other articles of export, will form a grand total of produce for shipment, exceeding in value by several millions of dollars that of any previous year. Instead of a corresponding increase of currency to meet the large augmentation of exports, we find that many branches of the import trade have latterly been much depressed by the cholera and other causes, and it may take some time for them to recover their former position; that during the past year a good deal of money was withdrawn hence for investment in United States' stocks; and, notwithstanding the increase of duties, there is not likely to be a greater amount of bills wanted for Government purposes, owing to the augmented expenditure occasioned by reinforcements of troops and marine forces. It seems, therefore, that nothing can prevent a very serious decline in the exchanges, except large receipts of specie from abroad; and it may be difficult to find purchasers for the great increase of bills that will be offered. The addition to the export duties will also affect prices in a slight degree."

CIRCASSIAN SLAVES.—Colonel Webb, of the *New York Courier and Enquirer*, recently returned from Europe, furnishes the following:—

"There are no Circassian slave markets, nor any other slave markets in Constantinople. The former have not existed for a great number of years; the latter were abolished by the order of the Sultan in 1846. It is true, that slaves continue to be sold, but it is always done privately,

though not secretly. There are two, and but two districts in or near the city, where Circassians are kept for sale, and there only at private houses. The principal one is in the suburb of Tophana; the other is in the city, near the famous 'Burnt Column,' in the street Adrianople. Here they are taught the Turkish language, and made familiar with all the peculiar Turkish accomplishments. A Mahometan may at any time obtain admission, and a Frank usually by the payment of a little *bucksheesh*. The fair captives may frequently be seen in the streets of Tophana, veiled with the *yashmac* and unattended, and their Circassian owners, who, by the way, are frequently their own fathers, sipping their favourite beverage, and chattering with customers about the price of their beautiful merchandise. This traffic is not disreputable among the Turks, and those who engage in it are frequently styled 'Aga,' like other men of consideration.

"An ordinary black slave in Constantinople generally brings from 60 to 100 dollars, and an ordinary Circassian from 250 to 450 dollars. The prices for them vary not only according to their personal attractions, but according to their age, since they are sold from the age of eight or ten upwards. Males usually command a higher price than females. Circassian girls, of unequalled attractions and the rarest accomplishments, occasionally command 1,200 to 1,400 dollars, but they are only purchased by the wealthiest in the land.

"The virgins purchased for the Sultan's harem by his mother, the Sultana Valide, who in accordance with long custom presents him a new one, the finest that can possibly be procured, every year, never cost more than 62,000 piastres, or about 2500 dollars.

"But within the last few years, polygamy has become less fashionable and prevalent, and as the Mahometan law requires that white females, when once purchased, shall become the wives of their lords, the demand for Circassians has consequently diminished. The supply, also, has become very limited, through Russian interference. Since the capture of Georgia by the Czar, the exportation of the Georgians has been prohibited, and effectually suppressed. The utmost vigilance is also exercised at the Black Sea ports, to prevent the shipment of young Circassians; but yet, owing to the eagerness of Circassian parents to sell their children for lucre, many parents elude the police, and find their way to Constantinople in spite of all obstacles. The complete subjugation of Circassia by Russia, if it ever happens, will produce at least one gratifying result, the total abolition of one of the most unnatural and revolting iniquities under the sun."

Colonial Intelligence.

BRITISH GUIANA.—ARRIVAL OF CAPTURED AFRICANS.—The ship *Brandon*, Captain Lawson, 1,196 tons, arrived on the 11th of January, nineteen days only from Sierra Leone, with 452 captured Africans. These people have all arrived in good health. There were no deaths, and no cases of sickness on board during the voyage. This arrival of Africans will prove a most seasonable addition to our labouring population. Of the 452 persons thus arrived, 199 are men, 128 women, 71 boys, and 45 girls. The *Brandon* is the largest vessel that has been in our river for a long time, and the shortness of her run across the Atlantic from Africa shows, that, notwithstanding her size, she must be a "clipper." The *Brandon*, we understand, is the property of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge, and Co., and a new ship.—*Royal Gazette*.

COOLIE IDOLATRY.—We have been informed of an occurrence, which, if true, stamps with odium the parties permitting it. On the 31st ult., the Coolies employed in a certain district of this county held their festival in honour of Juggernaut, and a part of the ceremonies of the day consisted in an exhibition the most revolting to humanity. Two devotees to the idol worship had themselves suspended to a gibbet, to which was attached at each end a chain with an iron hook that was passed through the principal muscle of their backs, and while they were hanging there for some hours, the other worshippers danced around them in encouragement of their barbarous sacrifice. This is said to have happened under the management of a gentleman who holds a commission as magistrate, and was within his observance. If such conciliation is practised towards the heathen labourers who are introduced here, the best principle which the friends to emigration have in view will be violated, and British Guiana become the stage on which may be exhibited all the barbarous rites of heathen worship. Upwards of 600 Hindoos were present, and, allowed unrestrained to set up their fellow-creatures, set an example of superstition never before known among the other classes of our people.—*Berbice Gazette*.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.—In alluding to the agricultural proceeds of the past year, in the paper of the 2nd inst., we stated that several estates had realised large crops: let our readers understand that in a comparative sense. The several may not amount to one-fifth of the sugar estates in this country, nor their crops to as much as in former times they produced; but under all disadvantages, either of weather at the opening of the year, or the general want—labour, we feel pleasure in reiterating our report of large crops, in proof that those to whom estates have been entrusted, or by whom they are owned or governed, have

bravely and indefatigably stemmed the current of untoward circumstances. Last year, in January, we beheld a valuable property lying in a state of ruin and dilapidation. Buildings fallen to decay; fields abandoned, and every other indication of a total wreck. On December 27th, of the same year, *redivivus* was stamped upon it, and from its desolation it is rescued by the enterprise and energy of its lessees, who, in the old English spirit, will struggle to the last, and may God prosper their efforts. A few more such instances, and *Berbice* will yet revive, regain her footing, and flourish. On the estate in question, the buildings are put in perfect order, the fields are renewed, and already some forty hogsheads, of as fine sugar as has ever been made by the ordinary process, reward the perseverance and outlay of the gentlemen who lease it. Does not this read a lesson to absentee proprietors? The owner of this estate has at present a valuable property in lieu of the wilderness he owned in 1849, and we consider the rent the lessees pay to him, to be doubly due to them.—*Berbice Gazette*, Jan. 6th.

BARBADOES.—THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW OF AMERICA.—A public meeting, very numerously attended, was held on the 23rd of January last, for the purpose of considering the above oppressive enactment. On the platform were, among others, Dr. King, T. J. Cummings, J. Montefiore, S. J. Prescod, W. H. Austin, S. Boxill, J. Hamilton, John Inniss, H. Brathwaite, J. Thorne, and E. W. Archer, Esqrs.

The chair was taken by Dr. King, the president of the Anti-Slavery Society.

The first resolution was moved by S. J. Prescod, Esq., who gave a full detail of the Fugitive Slave Bill, and read many interesting extracts to show the manner in which it was operating. Loss of life and happiness to the free coloured people, as well as the slaves, were the results of the measure. Great destitution and misery had overtaken thousands of the people, who were flying from the oppressive thralldom of slavery. He paid a handsome tribute to the abolitionists of America, who were fighting the battle of their persecuted brethren, and labouring to promote the repeal of the law.

The Rev. T. L. Badham, Moravian minister, seconded the resolution. He spoke of the horrors of slavery, and especially of American slavery, and expressed the warmest sympathy with the oppressed people of the slave States. He looked with confidence, however, for its abolition, from the omnipotence of the Almighty, and the past history of the institution. The duty of sympathising with, and relieving the fugitives, was put before the meeting, in terms which went home to every heart, and elicited the warmest approbation. The resolution, as follows, was put and carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting having heard, with deep and unmingled feelings of regret, of the Act recently passed by the United States Government, entitled 'the Fugitive Slave Act,' and of the effects which have already been produced by it, together with the further fearful consequences that must necessarily ensue, feel themselves urgently called upon to express their utter abhorrence of the spirit in which that Act has been conceived, the principles on which it is based, and the objects it is intended to accomplish."

Mr. J. Y. Edghill moved the second resolution. He illustrated the evils of slavery by quotations from Sir Charles Lyall's *Travels in North America*, from the Earl of Carlisle's Lecture, and from the printed records of the slave States. The excitement to which the Fugitive Slave Law had given rise was shown by extracts from the American papers, and the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*.

Mr. A. Barclay seconded the resolution. He appealed, in a very forcible way, to the inhabitants generally, and to the descendants of Africa particularly, for aid for the hunted slaves of America. The duty on all classes was clearly and eloquently demonstrated. The resolution, as follows, was adopted:—

"That the coloured population of the United States (free and slave) are entitled to the lively sympathy and solace of the friends of freedom throughout the world; and that it is the earnest desire and prayer of this meeting that the efforts making to obtain the repeal of the iniquitous Fugitive Slave Act may, under the Divine blessing, be crowned with success."

Joseph Hamilton, Esq., moved the third resolution.

S. Boxill, Esq., ably seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

"That with the view of demonstrating our sympathy with the more immediate sufferers under the operation of this most iniquitous law, this meeting pledge themselves to use their utmost endeavours to collect a fund to aid the fugitives in effecting their escape from such injustice, tyranny, and oppression."

Dr. King having left the chair, Mr. Prescod was called to it, and a vote of thanks to Dr. King, was moved by W. H. Austin, Esq., seconded by J. Inniss, Esq. It was carried amidst vehement applause. The Doctor acknowledged the vote of thanks in very appropriate terms, and the meeting quietly separated.

A collection was taken up in the course of the evening. Meetings, we are informed, will be held in the various country districts, for the same object.—*Abridged from the "Liberal."*

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London: JOHN CHAPMAN, 142, Strand.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1st, 1851.

We resume, in the present number of the *Reporter*, the short notices of Messrs. Candler and Alexander's late tour to the British emancipated colonies. Containing, as they do, the results of their inquiries, they will be read with deep interest and attention. The next number of the *Reporter* will contain their more elaborate statement respecting the island of Jamaica, which, in the perusal we have been favoured with, we have found to be a document of great value and importance. We had hoped to have presented it to our readers this month, but its great length, and the desire to give it in a complete state, has prevented our doing so.

When the entire series of notices prepared by our esteemed friends shall have been completed, we shall venture to accompany them with such a review as we feel their importance demands. In the meantime, we need scarcely do more than call the attention of our anti-slavery friends, both at home and abroad, to these interesting papers; and more especially would we claim the consideration of our friends in Denmark to the very unsatisfactory state of things in the Danish colonies, where slavery can yet scarcely be said to be abolished.

Our readers will learn with satisfaction that a joint representation has been made by the Governments of Great Britain and France to the Federal Government of the United States, respecting the imprisonment of coloured persons, the subjects or citizens of those countries respectively, which we trust will lead to a satisfactory and amicable arrangement between the several powers interested.

It is a monstrous circumstance that British subjects, on account of the tincture of their skin, should, whenever business or travel calls them to the Southern States of the United States, be seized and imprisoned as if they were felons, advertised as if they were runaway slaves, and, supposing them to be poor and friendless, subsequently sold to pay gaol fees. For many years past, this gross treatment of our own free subjects has been allowed to pass, if not without remonstrance, yet without anything approaching redress. The Federal Government of the United States has thrown the responsibility on the several Slave States; and the Slave States, having no international relations with either France or Great Britain, binding them to a proper course of conduct and policy, have treated with indifference or contempt the complaints so made. The Federal Government of the United States will not, however, be permitted henceforth to escape its responsibilities in this matter, under the plea of police regulations and of State sovereignties; but as the constitutional head of all the States, the treaty-making

power, it must give satisfaction to the countries outraged by the violation of the comity of nations, and the positive stipulations entered into with foreign and equal powers.

The correspondence which has taken place between Mr. Matthews, British Consul at Charleston, South Carolina, and the Governor of that State, calls for no special comment of ours; it would appear, however, that the State authorities are willing to relax their stringent regulations affecting foreign coloured seamen, on condition of their remaining on board their respective vessels from sunset to sunrise. The British Government, however, cannot be satisfied with any such arrangement as this, but must demand the unequivocal recognition of the rights of British subjects, whether coloured or otherwise, to the same privileges of access, on business or pleasure, with those enjoyed by American seamen and citizens in every part of the British Empire. Anything more reasonable than this we cannot imagine; more we do not ask for—less we will not take.

The proposed motion of Sir Edward Buxton on the sugar duties, viz., to arrest the differential duties between British and foreign sugars at that point to which they will arrive on the 5th of July next, say 4s. per cwt., on Muscovadoes, has been unavoidably postponed. The *Times* and the *Daily News* have each written elaborate articles on the subject, and have discussed it from different points of view. To disentangle it from the various subtleties and false statements which these journals have thrown around it, would require an article equally elaborate with their own,—a thing which we cannot attempt in the present limited space of the *Reporter*. We may observe, however, that the *Times* points to some other mode of helping the West Indians out of their difficulty, created by our fiscal policy in 1846, than by continuing a differential duty in favour of their sugars. But it fails to indicate what that mode is, and, in point of fact, leaves its readers completely in the dark. Two ways have been pointed out by others, by which it is alleged this can be done; the first is, to grant the West India body additional compensation for the injuries alleged to be inflicted by our free-trade policy; and the second is, to supply them with an unlimited number of Africans, purchased and introduced at the public expense, into the emancipated colonies. Now we need scarcely say that neither of those modes of meeting the difficulty can be entertained for a single moment, for both involve considerations of a nature to revolt the public mind. The *Daily News* takes a bolder course than the *Times*, and intimates that it will be well to leave the West Indies to the ruin which has been brought upon them by the policy which they advocated. Freedom of commerce is the god of its idolatry; before this idol which it has set up, it is prepared to sacrifice human freedom and the great moralities which should influence and direct all commerce. Nor does it hesitate in the choice of the weapons it employs, and in the conduct of its argument; that which is false as well as that which is true, that which is bare surmise as well as that which is absolute certainty, is pressed into it without a single indication of shame, or palliation of the impropriety. We shall feel it to be our duty, hereafter, to point out the course which the *Daily News* has taken on the whole question of Emancipation; and we think we shall be able to show, that notwithstanding its boasted elevation of principle and affected generosity of sentiment, it has but little sympathy with the enslaved portions of humanity, and does little to promote the real progress of the toiling and industrious masses of mankind.

We have been compelled through want of space to defer the insertion of much valuable matter, which will come before our readers in due course. We intended especially to refer to the proceedings of the United States Senate, on the employment of American vessels in the slave-trade, against which, it is expected, effectual steps will be taken. We also proposed alluding to the strenuous exertions now being made by the "Union Party," to obtain pledges from the members of Congress to maintain the compromise of the last session intact. It is to be feared that the attempt will prove successful.

Our subscribers will also kindly accept the above reason for the non-appearance of the usual subscription list in the present number.

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Sold by W. Everett, 14, Finch Lane, and 17, Royal Exchange.